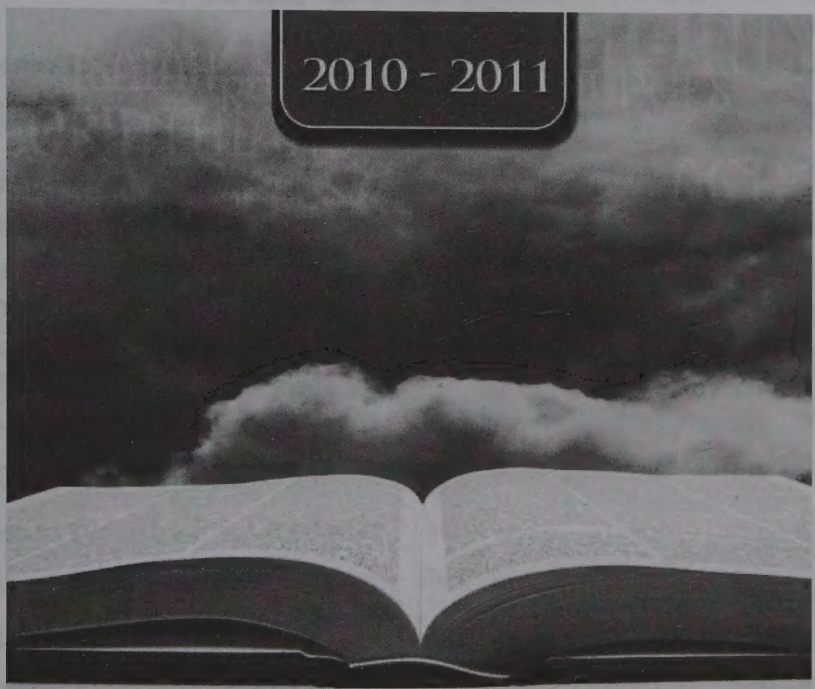
2011

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

NORTH AMERICA



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2010-2011

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Sunday School Department
RCCG Victory Temple
P. O. Box 480098
Charlotte, NC 28269
704-552-8895
Email: rccgsundayschool@gmail.com

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PREFACE

We welcome you to another year of Sunday School. We pray that it will be a glorious year as you decide to remain holy and assume the posture of a new man or woman in Christ.

When your heart comes in contact with the Lord Jesus Christ, it becomes new and adopts the name "NEW MAN." The New Man is a sanctified life which is a separated life unto God. The New Man has a life style patterned after and controlled by the Holy Spirit. The New Man must be identified by his or her dedication. The man in his supernatural position that regularly feeds on the word of God will always enjoy breakthroughs.

Our God is a holy God and He commands every believer to be perfect in His sight. Living holy enables every believer to enjoy God's presence and living ever with God in eternal life. Ask for God's grace to remain absolutely holy. The Lord remains your present help.

This year's manual has been packaged with the aforementioned in mind. Our prayer is that at the end of these teachings you would have become a true Christian on fire for God.

1 | 9 | 2011

LESSON 1
REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY

MEMORY VERSE: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

LESSON TEXT - Matthew 3:1-12

INTRODUCTION

The Christian life starts and continues as a changed life. This is the essence of repentance. When someone who has been doing evil feels sorry for it, changes his mind about it and decides not only to stop doing it but also actually to start doing the exact opposite of the evil he has been doing before then he is said to have repented. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change in conduct. For example, in Matt. 21:28-32, the boy at first refused to work in the vineyard but later repented, changed his mind and then went and actually worked in the vineyard.

OUTLINE

A. REASONS FOR REPENTANCE

B. WHAT ARE INVOLVED IN TRUE REPENTANCE?

C. HOW TO TRULY REPENT

D. RESULTS OF TRUE REPENTANCE

A. REASONS FOR REPENTANCE

There are several reasons why repentance is necessary in the life of anybody. In fact repentance is given so much prominence that the first sermon preached by our Lord Jesus Christ after his baptism and testing in the wilderness was on repentance, Matt.4:17. Repentance is necessary because of the following reasons:

In the first place, repentance must precede salvation or conversion, Acts 3:19. No one can be saved without first repenting of his sins.

In the second place, repentance is necessary to prepare us for Heaven, Matt. 4:17. This is because of the first reason above, since only saved souls can enter the Kingdom of heaven, Jn. 3:3.

In the third place, it is God's commandment that everybody must repent, Acts 17:30. That makes it compulsory since failure to obey God will lead to eternal condemnation, Lk. 13:3

B. WHAT ARE INVOLVED IN TRUE REPENTANCE?

Three basic things are involved in true repentance.

First is a change of attitude or way of thinking. The way of thinking about sin and righteousness must change. True repentance brings about a hatred of sin and a love of holiness and purity.

Second is an expression of sorrow for past wrongs, Ps. 38:18. We find an example of this in the case of the publican in Luke 18:13. He smote upon his breast as an indication of the sorrow in his heart.

Thirdly is a turning away from sin (or the devil) and a turning unto God, 1 Thess. 1:9. It is the devil that is the author of sin. He also has the power to keep those who stay with him to go on sinning. But whoever repents is saying goodbye to Satan and welcome to God, Acts 26:18

C. HOW TO TRULY REPENT

True repentance brings pardon and blotting out of past sins, Isa 55:7; Acts 3:19. Note that repentance merely prepares the way for forgiveness. It is not forgiveness itself. Also, true repentance causes joy in heaven, Lk 15:10. This is because everyone that repents ceases to be an enemy of God and become His friends.

D. RESULTS OF TRUE REPENTANCE

When a person hears the message of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit convicts them of their sins leading to a great sorrow of heart and finally repentance, 2 Cor. 7:10. Note that the sorrow is prelude to repentance and not repentance itself. Any sorrow that is not accompanied by determination to forsake sin and turn to God is useless, Heb.12:17. So that true repentance is actually a

gift from God through the working of the Holy Spirit, Acts 11:18. Has the Holy Spirit been working upon you since you started this lesson? Then do not hinder Him. Repent.

QUESTIONS

1. What is true repentance?
2. Why is repentance necessary?
3. What are the signs that someone has truly repented?
4. What are the results of true repentance?
5. How can you repent?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ezekiel 18:31 - Failure to repent is an easy source of death.

TUE: Acts 8:22 - Repentance is of the heart and it is closely linked to thoughts.

WED: Jonah 3:6-7 - True repentance of leaders will change the plans of destruction which sin brings.

THUR: Luke 15:21 - True repentance is a total turn to God who is our father in heaven.

FRI: 2 Kings 22:19 - Repentance is a good weapon for answered prayers.

SAT: Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is near and ready to forgive, He only requires your broken heart.

SUN: Joel 2: 13 - The Lord looks into a broken heart, not a broken dress.

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LESSON 2
YOU ARE ADOPTED

MEMORY VERSE: *"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." Ephesians 1:5*

LESSON TEXT - Galatians 4:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

It is the promise of God to be a father unto us and that we shall be His children. This process is that of adoption. Adoption admits somebody into the family of God with all the joys that a son can have in the household of his father. In adoption the child receives the position of a son, that is, Gal. 4:7. What are the conditions of adoption? How do you know you have been adopted? What are the responsibilities as an adopted child? These and many more questions will be answered in this lesson.

OUTLINES

A. CONDITIONS FOR ADOPTION.

B. THE BLESSINGS OF ADOPTION

C. MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN ADOPTED CHILD.

A. CONDITIONS FOR ADOPTION

Faith In Christ Jesus is a major condition in adoption, Gal. 3:23-24. That is of course if you are already born again and justified by God. Adoption is by God through redemption and separation, Lk. 8:21. It is also by God's predestination, Eph. 1:5-6. It is equally the work of Christ; Jn. 8:34-36. We were under the law but receive the adoption as sons, Gal. 4:4-6. We do not have to wait till we have been a saint for one year or ten years. Adoption can occur the moment one believes in Jesus Christ or right now, I John 3:2. However, adoption will only be completed at the resurrection when we enter His presence, Romans 8:23. Very often in this world, we are not recognized

as sons of God. But on the resurrection morning, those of us who remain in the faith will occupy our rightful positions.

You will know that you have been adopted when you begin to be led by the Holy Spirit of God, Romans 8:14. Guidance by the Holy Spirit in every little thing in life is the proof of adoption. The Holy Spirit will guide any son of God into the truth of God, John 16:13.

B. WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF ADOPTION

There are so many blessings and we may not list them all but we shall mention just a few. (a) You can now confidently call God your Father Rom. 8:15. Remember, a slave can only call his master Lord. A slave was never allowed to address his master as "Abba." But on adoption, you can call Jesus Christ, "my Father and my God." (b) God loves all His adopted children exactly the same way as He loves Jesus Christ, John 17:23. (d) He will also correct you as and when necessary, like any good earthly father does, Heb. 12:5-11. (e) You will have the assurance that one day you will gather with the other sons of God in heaven, Jn. 14:14-23, (f) and when you gather, it is to receive your Father's inheritance I Pet. 1:3-4. Is that not wonderful? Should anything in this world attract someone away from God? The choice is yours.

C. MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN ADOPTED CHILD

As a child of God, I must follow the footsteps of the one who called me, 1 Pet. 2:21. As a member of the Royal family of heaven, I must behave in such a way that people will not have cause to tarnish the image of my Father, Matt. 5:16. Since God chose me due to no merit of mine, I should show my gratitude by continually praising Him, 1 Pet. 2:9-10. Finally, I should love and obey Jesus Christ who made it possible for me to become a child of God. Knowing that I can only demonstrate my love for Him by loving my fellowmen, 1 John 4:20, therefore I should love my fellowmen also, Jn. 15:17. Are you ready for the blessings and responsibilities of adoption? Would you like to pray about it now?

CONCLUSION

God is counting on you to show forth the praise of the one who called you from darkness into His marvelous light, 1 Pet. 2:9. This requires the backing of heaven; you can call on Him now.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between the new birth, justification and adoption?
2. What is the condition for adoption?
3. What are the blessings of adoption?
4. What are the responsibilities of adoption?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Deut. 14:2 - Our adoption is special unto the Lord and we are special to Him.

TUE: Isa. 63:16 - Our relationship with our maker is of eternal value.

WED: Hos. 11:1 - Our salvation and subsequently our adoption is absolutely a product of divine choice.

THUR: John 1:12 - Receiving and believing in Jesus Christ are the foundations of our adoption.

FRI: Rom. 3:17 - Adoption as a child of God is the sure way of peace.

SAT: 2 Cor. 6: 18 - We are no more aliens but children of God.

SUN: Gal. 4:4-5 - Thank God for our adoption as members of God's family.

1/23/2011

LESSON 3
SANCTIFIED VESSELS

MEMORY VERSE: *"That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor" 1 Thessalonians 4:4*

LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:1- 8

INTRODUCTION

Sanctification means separation from evil – 2 Chron. 29:5 - and separation unto God – Lev. 27:16. Sanctification means being made holy or purified. It is the will of God that every vessel, (believer) should be sanctified - I Thess. 4:3. Only sanctified vessels can be used by God – 2 Tim. 2:21.

OUTLINES

A. HOW A VESSEL CAN BE SANCTIFIED

B. BENEFITS OF SANCTIFICATION

A. HOW A VESSEL CAN BE SANCTIFIED

The Trinity is involved in the work of sanctification:God the Father, 1 Thess. 5:23-24; God the Son, Eph. 5:26 and God the Holy Spirit, Tit. 3:5.

Vessels can be sanctified by the word of God, John 15:3; 1 Tim. 4:5. Meditate on the word of God day and night to make your way prosperous and have good success, Josh. 1:8. Sanctification is also obtained by the blood of Jesus, Heb 13:12; Heb. 10:29. Sanctification is obtained by receiving a new heart, Eze. 36:26; that is, replacing the stony heart by fleshy heart to become a vessel unto honor for the use of the Lord. To be sanctified, you must be prepared to purge yourself of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, 2 Tim.2:21; 2 Cor.7:1. If you are ready to receive the heart of flesh, God will give you. You must be prepared to keep God's company and be in His presence.

B. BENEFITS OF SANCTIFICATION

Once sanctified, to live a holy life becomes easy. You now become a vessel unto honor fit for the master's use and prepared unto every good work - 2 Tim 2:21. Then, you will start to bear fruits- Rom 6:22; Gal 5:22-23. Be free to copy the works of your Master -John 14:12. You will be a carbon copy of Jesus and receive the power to do greater works - Heb 10:14. You will become a representative of Jesus here on earth. You will also have a guarantee of an inheritance in Heaven – Acts 26:18.

CONCLUSION

To remain a clean apprentice of Jesus you must be sanctified. Are you sanctified? If no, work towards it so that you can be used by Jesus to do exploits.

QUESTIONS

1. What is sanctification?
2. Is it necessary for a believer to be sanctified?
3. What are the benefits of Sanctification?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Lev. 10:3 - The Lord will be sanctified in you, come near Him.

TUE: Acts 20:32 - God is ready to give you your inheritance if you can sanctify yourself.

WED: 1 Pet. 3:15 - Sanctify the Lord in your heart to give right all questions asked.

THUR: Ps. 4:3 - The chosen ones would have their prayers answered.

FRI: Phil. 3:12-14 - Our sanctification should provoke us into closer walk with the Lord Jesus until we see him in glory.

SAT: 1 Cor. 1:30 - Christ is our sanctification

SUN: James 4:7 -Who is Satan to stand on your way if you are totally submitted to God?

LESSON 4 1|30|2011
BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, Joel 2:28.*

LESSON TEXT: Acts 2:1-18

INTRODUCTION

The baptism into the Holy Spirit involves both the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ the Baptizer. Therefore, the baptism is preceded by total surrender and absolute commitment to Jesus. Without this He cannot baptize you in the Holy Spirit. In the case of water baptism, the candidate undergoes total immersion into the river. The candidate does not receive the river, it is the river receiving and overflowing the candidate. When the candidate enters the river, he does not swim about or dive, he walks calmly, resolutely (no going back, I will be baptized today) and keeps going until he stands close to the baptizer. At that point he hands over himself completely to the pastor who will then baptize him. In the case of the Holy Spirit baptism, Jesus is the Baptizer, the Holy Spirit is the River, and you are the candidate.

OUTLINES

A. WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?

B. WHY DO I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED?

C. WHY MUST I SPEAK IN TONGUES?

D. WHO SPEAKS?

E. WHAT STEPS DO I HAVE TO TAKE?

A. WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?

Anyone who has been born again and sanctified can be baptized into the Holy Spirit. God does not discriminate. He is no respecter of persons, the Spirit will be poured upon ALL flesh, Acts 2:17-18.

B. WHY MUST I SPEAK IN TONGUES?

Why must I speak in tongues when baptized in the Holy Spirit? Can I be baptized without speaking in tongues? The answer is simple. Speaking in tongues is the immediate evidence that you have been baptized. And the reason is that if you surrender your car to a driver, the first thing he does is to take the steering wheel. Surrender your ship to God and the first thing He does is to take the helm to set your life on a new course (James 3:2, 4-5).

C. WHO SPEAKS?

When I speak in a new tongue, who speaks, the Spirit or me? The answer is both! You speak as He gives utterance. You talk to God and He understands because you talk to Him with words that He gives upon your lips (Mk. 13:11).

D. STEPS TOWARDS BAPTISM

1. Confess all sins to Jesus Christ, 1 Jn. 1: 9. Repent of the sins, Acts 2: 38. Renounce these sins, Ps. 66: 18. Surrender your life to Him (Rom. 6:13). This is very important. His will must not be at variance with yours. Your will must be His will (Ps. 40:8). The Holy Spirit is power. And power can be dangerous in the hands of an undisciplined or un-surrendered person.
2. Be thirsty for the baptism, remember that those who hunger and thirsty after God's righteousness shall be filled, Matthew 5:6.
3. Surrender your life to Him (Rom. 6:13). This is very important. His will must not be at variance with yours. Your will must be His will (Ps. 40:8). The Holy Spirit is power. And power can be dangerous in the hands of an undisciplined or un-surrendered person.

4. Absolute surrender in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. God gives the Holy Spirit only to those who obey Him - Acts 5:32.

5. Believe. (James 1:6-7) The Holy Spirit is more anxious to fill you than you are to receive Him. You must believe His promises, Joel 2:28-29. He promised the Holy Spirit for every believer, Jn. 14: 26; 15: 26; 16: 7. Therefore, do not allow the devil rob you by whispering to you that there is no baptism with the Holy Spirit or that when you are born again, you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You are only indwelt with the Holy Spirit at conversion but at baptism with the Holy Spirit, you are empowered and energized by the Holy Spirit.

6. There must be earnest prayer of faith and importunity – Lk. 11:11-13; Lk. 18:17. Our heavenly Father is ready to give us the Holy Spirit if we ask Him. Nevertheless, we must ask in faith without wavering – Jam. 1:6.

Are you willing and determined? Remember the prodigal son said, "I will arise and go!" He arose and went. No looking back. If you too are totally determined to be baptizes, then today is your day! Ask and receive the gift of God today.

QUESTIONS

1. Who is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit?
2. Who can be baptized, a judge or a cleaner?
3. Why do you need to be baptized?
4. Why must you speak in tongues?
5. What steps lead to the baptism?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Acts 10:44 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not an experience limited to the day of Pentecost. You can experience yours now.

TUE: Acts 19:6 - Your experience of the baptism in the Holy Ghost can come through the laying on of hands. Get ready to be baptized.

WED: Rom. 8:16 - It is the witness of the Holy Spirit that confirms our adoption.

THUR: I Jn. 4:13 - There is an assurance given by the Holy Spirit that He dwells in us.

FRI: Neh. 9:20 - The Holy Spirit is given to meet believers' needs.

SAT: I Cor. 1:13 - The Holy Spirit is the best teacher.

SUN: Lk. 12:12 - The Holy Spirit is the best advocate when you are accused for the sake righteousness.

2

LESSON 5
BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 2

MEMORY VERSE - *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" Ephesians 5:18*

LESSON TEXT - Acts 2:1-21

INTRODUCTION

In the last lesson, we examined the baptism of the Holy Spirit, how we can be baptized and the results of the baptism. In this lesson, we want to know what living a Spirit-filled life means and the fruits, which such life will generate in our day to day living. It is our prayer that the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit will not depart from us at any stage of our Christian life.

OUTLINES

A. BLESSINGS OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

B. EXAMINING THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. BLESSINGS OF THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Baptism with the Holy Spirit gives the Christian boldness in service and testimony. The Lord does not give us the spirit of timidity but the spirit of boldness of power and of a sound mind - Acts 4:29, 31, 33.
- The supernatural power of God is imparted for effective and efficient Christian service Acts, 1:5, 8. Without the baptism, there cannot be power for effective profitable service for the Lord. So, seek for the baptism today - Acts 2:41.
- Power to rebuke sin, Acts 13:8-11. Also it is the Holy Spirit that bears witness to Christian's spiritual adoption, Rom. 8:16, and leads to dramatic changes in their lives. For example, Saul of Tarsus was a great persecutor of Christians, Acts 9:1-2, but after he met the Lord Jesus

Christ and he was baptized in the Holy Spirit, became an entirely new person, Acts 21:8, 11-13.

- It is God's commandment that you must be baptized in the Holy Spirit, Eph. 5:18. And if God says so, then baptism is fulfillment of God's commandment.
- Holy Spirit helps Christians in prayer, Rom 8:26.
- Holy Spirit empowers a believer to make him have a godly life. He quickens his spirit and produces in him a holy living – Jn.6:63, 2 Cor.3:6

B. EXAMINING THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The fruit of the Holy Spirit stands as the evidence of a spirit-filled life. They are gracious and godly habits produced in the life of a consecrated believer who has been baptized with the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance – Gal. 5:22-23, 2 Pet.1:5-8. The nine fruits are united in purpose and direction to make a child of God live a Christ-like life. It is God's expectation in our lives. Unlike the gifts of the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit are not divided among believers. All must possess them. As we cooperate with the Spirit, He brings the fruits into our lives. In order to have the fruits, you need to do the following:

(a) Consciously surrender yourself to the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor.6:19-20. Offer your body to God as a living sacrifice – Rom.12:1-2.

(b) We must see ourselves as having died to sin but alive to Christ – Rom.6:11, Gal.2:20.

(c) Determine to bring yourself under the Lordship of Jesus Christ by faith. Let your mind be turned completely to God – Rom.12:2.

(d) Work on one fruit at a time, praying in faith and trusting God that all the fruits stated in Gal.5:22-23 will become a reality in your life – 2 Pet. 1:3.

CONCLUSION

Are you filled with the Spirit? Allow the Holy Spirit to make more of you by yielding yourself completely to Him today. Pray more and put more faith into action. Note that the only way you can claim to belong to God is by bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit. This is the mark of godliness. Does your life show the fruits of the Spirit? Pray seriously about it and take the steps we recommend in this lesson. Pray that the Lord will fill you and that the fruits should start showing gradually in your life as from today.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by a Spirit-filled life?
2. How can you be filled with the Spirit?
3. What is meant by the fruits of the Spirit?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: John 3:6-8 - The Holy Spirit like the wind cannot be inhibited by distance and therefore can satisfy every soul's need whatever it may be.

TUE: 1 Cor. 12:13 - We are bonded in love by the Spirit of God.

WED: Phil. 1:21 - The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and He will reveal mysteries of the Kingdom of God to us.

THUR: Eph. 1:13 - Thank God for the Holy Spirit, the seal to our salvation.

FRI: Rom. 8:14-16 - We know by the Spirit of God that we are the children of God and we are led by Him.

SAT: Gal. 4:6 - We are privileged as Christians and by the Holy Spirit to call the Almighty God our Daddy.

SUN: Jn.16:24 - Do not be weary. Ask till your joy is full.

LESSON 6
YOU MUST MEMORISE BIBLE VERSES - PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8*

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 1:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

God's instructions to Joshua for him to possess the Promised Land remain a proven "formula for spiritual success." Today's saints could only take full possession of every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus by reading and meditating on the word of God. 2 Tim 3:16-17, Josh 1:8

OUTLINES

A. WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMORIZE

B. REASONS TO MEMORISE SCRIPTURES

A. WHAT IT MEANS TO MEMORIZE

In psychology, memory is an organism's ability to store, retain, and subsequently retrieve information. Memorization or memorizing is the process of committing something to memory. The act of memorization is often a deliberate mental process undertaken in order to store in memory for later recall items such as experiences, names, appointments, addresses, telephone numbers, lists, stories, poems, Bible Verses, Ps 119:4, 9, 11,18, 27,103

Memory is the treasurer of the mind. Prov. 2:1, Prov. 3:1-2.

B. REASONS TO MEMORISE SCRIPTURES

1. Personal Benefit

- God commanded us to speak or recite the book of the law, Joshua 1: 8; 2 Cor. 3: 6
- It renews and transforms us to be heavenly minded children of God, Romans 12: 2; Heb 4: 12
- The word would become Spirit that quickens and gives life, Jn. 6:23
- Memorizing and obeying the words of God keep a Christian from sinning, Ps. 119 : 11
- It has power to cleanse and purifies our heart, Ps. 119: 9; Jn. 17: 17; Heb 4: 12, Eph 5: 26
- It is a major weapon or sword a good Christian uses to fight demonic forces and to overcome temptations Eph. 6: 17; Matt. 8: 16, Heb 4: 12.
- Blessings, prosperity and good successes follow those that keep the word of God, Josh 1: 8, Ps 1: 1-3, Rev 1: 3.
- It assist us in rendering quality worship to God Almighty, Ps. 119: 89; Ps 138: 2; Deut. 10: 14; Lk. 11: 2
- Memorizing provides the materials or substances to meditate on, Jos. 1: 8, Phil 4: 8-9
- It is a major catalyst of effective prayer, 1 Kgs. 8: 26; 2 Chr. 6: 16-17; 2 Chr. 7: 12-16, Ps 119: 76; Isa. 38: 1-6; Dan. 9: 2-3, John 15: 7
- A good Christian must be very verse in the study of the Bible, 2 Timothy 2:15
- It would help a Christian against being deceived with false and wrong doctrines Eph. 4: 14-15; 2 Tim 4: 3
- The words of God are everlasting, Mt. 24: 35. Therefore whatever you memorize would last forever, Rev. 22: 7, 17
- Jesus Christ practiced it. "Thus saith the Lord" or "God said" or "It is written" or "Have you not read that" were recorded words of Jesus

Christ, 92 times. Lk. 4: 4, 8,12; Deut. 8: 3; Ex. 20: 3-5; Deut. 6: 16; Lk. 19: 46, Lk. 20: 17. Likewise the Apostles 1 Cor. 1: 18-19, 2:9, Rom. 3: 10, Rom. 12: 19, Gal. 3: 13

2. Benefits to others.

- Reciting relevant memorized bible verses helps in leading sinners to salvation Acts 2: 14-18, 37-38, 41; 2 Tim 4: 2, Eph 6: 19, 2 Tim 3: 15
- Scriptures memorized are good materials used for counseling, rebuke, and correcting other people, 2 Tim3:16
- Memorized bible verses are good for hymns, admonition, exhortation comfort and encouragement of other, Col 3:16; Heb 3:13

CONCLUSION

Every Christian must persevere with great delight in the discipline of Scriptural memorization. Each verse of Scripture committed to memory becomes an arrow of defense against Satan. - I. G. Lewis. A good disciple must memorize the bible. When the Bible becomes a part of you, you'll be less likely to come apart.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention five reasons why a Christian should memorize the scripture?
2. Describe practically how a good Christian would obey God's instruction in Joshua 1:8
3. How do memorizing bible verses help others?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Heb. 3:13 - You cannot give what you don't have.

TUE: Col. 3:16 - You must memorize to fulfill God's instructions.

WED: Acts 2:16 - Even the Apostles memorized the scriptures.

THUR: Lk. 20:17 - We have a good example in Jesus Christ.

FRI: Lk. 4:4 - The word will be available when faced with temptations.

SAT: Matt. 24:35 - Invest your life on what shall last forever.

SUN: Jn. 15: 7 - An easy access to answered prayers is to memorize the word of God.

LESSON 7
YOU MUST MEMORISE BIBLE VERSES - PART 2

MEMORY VERSE: *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12*

LESSON TEXT - Luke 4:1-14

INTRODUCTION

"No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified." Chuks Swindoll. How many bible verses did you memorize in the past one week? Let us examine why the devil successfully cheated you in this area of Christian empowerment.

OUTLINES

A. SOME EXCUSES FOR FAILING TO MEMORISE

B. PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MEMORIZING SCRIPTURES

A. SOME EXCUSES FOR FAILING TO MEMORISE

i. "I am neither a Pastor nor an Evangelist"- Mk.16:15-16; 2 Cor. 5:17-18; 2 Tim 3:15

ii. "I have a poor memory." - Jas 1:5; Eph 1:7

iii. "I don't have time, Eph 5:15-17

iv. "I am too old, Phil 4:13; Lk 2:40, Mk 10:27

v. "I have tried before and failed."- Jn. 14:16; 17:26 Phil 4:13

vi. "I have a poor memory."- Jas 1:5, Eph 1:7

vii. "Why bother now that I have my new computer program." Josh 1:8

viii."Memorizing Scripture will make me spiritually proud."Ps 119:11

ix. "I don't need to do it" Ps. 119:11, Heb. 4:12, Rev. 12:11

The primary reason why Christians do not memorize is that we choose not to. We are ignorant of the potent power in memorizing bible verses.

Memorizing and reciting bible verse is the weapon of offence and defense in Christian warfare, Eph. 6:17. Word of God is your Sword for battle.

B. PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MEMORIZING SCRIPTURES

1. Memorize the location of the verse together with the verse.

   You will find it just as easy to say, " For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Rom. 3:23.

   It helps one to locate scriptures easily when you need it

2. Learn it. 2 Tim 2:15

   Don't get a faint, indefinite idea. Let it make a deep, clear and vivid impression on your mind the moment you learn it.

   You would be able to remember it several years after.

3. Read the verse over. Rom 10:8

   Read it loud about twenty one times. Close your Bible and see if you can repeat it correctly, then to be sure, read it again. Writing the verse is worth a dozen repetitions of it by mouth.

4. Review is the secret of memorization. Josh 1:8

   Review the verses every day, Every week, Every month, Every year

5. Practice. Use the passages of Scripture. 2 Tim 3:16-17

   -Daily conversation - Counseling

   - Teach your children - Rebuke

-Prayers
- Evangelism
- Correction
- Instruction in righteousness

CONCLUSION

Read your bible, pray every day. All things could be taken away from you, but no principality or power could take away the word of God that you have stored in your memory and in your heart. Remember your Sword to battle is the Word. You need it to fight even in your sleep or dreams. Eph 6:11-12, 16

QUESTIONS:

1. Mention 7 excuses Christians give for not memorizing bible verses?
2. What are the five steps a Christian should take in other to effectively memorize the bible verses.
3. How do Memory verses help our Christian life?
4. Mention 5 ways a Christian can use memorized bible verses?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 2 Tim. 3:17 - The word of God is given to equip us unto good work.

TUE: Eph. 6:17 - The word of God is one of His armors, so memorize to be equipped

WED: Heb. 4:12 - You cannot afford not to have the word in you.

THUR: Phil. 4:13 - You have the grace to memorize the word inside of you.

FRI: Ps. 119:105 - You need divine guidance to excel in life.

SAT: Ps. 119:11 - The wages of sin is death but there is a gift of God.

SUN: 2 Tim. 3: 15 - Children are not exempted from memorizing the word.

LESSON 8
MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD - PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" Psalms 119:11*

LESSON TEXT: Luke 8:4-15

INTRODUCTION

The word meditates stems from the Latin root meditatum, i.e. to ponder. Apart from memorizing the word of God, Joshua was strictly instructed to mediate daily on the word. Josh 1:8. David said "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" Ps. 119:11

OUTLINES

A. THE MEANING OF MEDITATION

B. OBJECTIVES OF MEDITATION

A. THE MEANING OF MEDITATION - PSA. 63:6; PS 77:11

1. Meditation means "the act of focusing one's thoughts:to ponder, think on, and muse. It is a component of many religious practices for ages."
2. Meditation consists of reflective thinking or contemplation, usually on a specific subject to discern its meaning or significance or a plan of action. Ps 119:103
3. Synonyms of mediation include; i-rumination ii-deep thinking iii-remembering in an attempt to keep in focus iv-calling something to mind for the purpose of consideration v - reflection, or meditation Psalm 143:5; Rom 10:8, Jer. 15:16, Ps 19:10, Pro. 8:11

B. OBJECTIVES OF MEDITATION

Worship -Your mind is focus on the Lord and His works, Ps. 27:4; 77:12. It is a place and space in our lives for communion with God, Ps. 16:11; Acts 2:25-28. It is a means of elevating the spiritual over the material world. It is bring your body, soul and spirit out of the realm of the of activities, the world of hustling and bustling and coming and going.

1. Instruction - Meditation improves our understanding of the Word and God's ways as it applies to our lives, Ps. 49:3. Understanding comes from the meditations of his heart. Ps. 119:27, 97. In meditation we exchange our thoughts with God's.
2. Motivation or Encouragement - Good time of meditation on Gods words motivate and inspire us in service. It gives faith and courage for the works God has called us to do, Josh. 1:7-8.
3. Transformation - It is designed to transform and change our lives. This would apply to all the above, Ps. 4:4; 19:14; 119:15; Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:1-10.

CONCLUSION

In Josh 1:8, God promised Joshua success as part of the fruit of his meditation on the Word. It is different from the prosperity mentality of the power of positive thinking. Biblical meditation leads to understanding with revelation of His Will. It guides one to obedience and godly living which is the key prosperity and good success. Transcendental meditation is not biblical meditation. It opens up one's mind for satanic attack.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between memorizing and meditation?
2. Why does the seed that fell among thorns failed to produce fruits?
3. What are the benefits of meditating on the words of God?
4. Describe practically how to meditate on the word of God.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Col. 3:2 - It is good to meditate on things above.

TUE: Psa. 4:4 - Meditation on God's Word includes when you are on your bed.

WED: Mal. 3:16 - Constant meditation will keep you in the fear of the Lord.

THUR: Phil. 4:8 - Don't meditate on issues that will not glorify God.

FRI: Psa. 48:9 - Spend time on the loving-kindness of the Lord.

SAT: Ps. 1:2 - There is no leave on meditation of God's word.

SUN: Gen. 24: 63 - God could show you your heart desire after a meditation.

LESSON 9
MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD PART 2

MEMORY VERSE: *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart:for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts." Jeremiah 15:16*

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 1:1-3

INTRODUCTION

The Bible was given to us by God to be read and meditated on. In these days of instant noodles, microwaves and fast food, holy exercise of reflecting or pondering over God's Word is no longer common among Christians. Meditation is the key to Christian maturity and fruitfulness, Heb 5:12-14. A good Christian must chew the word of God in Meditation just as an animal chews its cud to get its sweetness and nutritive virtue. Today most Christians' devotions are done in hurry or rushed. "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psa. 119:103.

OUTLINES

A. REASONS TO MEDITATE ON THE SCRIPTURES

B. THE ART OF MEDITATION

C. APPLICATION OF MEDITATION

A. REASONS TO MEDITATE ON THE SCRIPTURES

i. Babes drink milk but mature Christians chew meat and crack bone- mediation is the act of chewing spiritual meat and bones so that we could get all the sweetness and nourishment from Spiritual food. 1 Pet. 2:2; Psa. 119:103; Heb 5:12-14. Spiritual Meat of the Word of God Jn. 4:31-33; Jn. 6:27

- Eating without chewing properly would lead to indigestion.

- Continuous indigestion would lead to constipation
- Chronic constipation would lead to intestinal obstruction disease (Severe pain , Vomiting and diarrhea, infection, confusion, loss of consciousness e.t.c)

ii. His thoughts are different from our thoughts. Isa. 55:8-9. You need to renew your mind so that you could be heavenly minded. Meditating on God's word renews or reprograms our minds, exchanges our ideas for God's, so we can begin to experience God's ways. Isa. 55:8; Rom. 12:1.

iiii. The way to grow your faith is by meditating on the word of God because faith comes by hearing, Rom. 10:17

iv. Knowledge and understanding of Gods words come by the Spirit in the place of meditation. Letter kills, spirit gives life. Psa. 19:7. It is a means of better knowing and understanding the Word which gives insight to life itself . Psa. 49:3; 119:27

v. It produces spiritual stability and fruitfulness or success according to biblical standards. Josh. 1:7; Psa. 1:2-3. In the time of trial and persecution, meditating on God's word gives peace and shines light. Ps 119:78

vi. Meditation is the key to inspiration The Bible is God breathed and each word and sentence has a purpose and function. Psa. 119:99

vii. Meditation makes us teachers of the word and not babes. Psa. 119:97 Heb 5:12-13

B. THE ART OF MEDITATION

a. Biblical meditation is the art of reflection, of pondering and going over the Word of God in one's mind.

b. Select a quiet, still and solitude place for meditating on God's Word.

- There are three times during the day we can actively turn our minds over to God's Word in Christian Meditation.

At bed time just before one falls asleep at night. Make God's Word be the last thing that occupies your mind. Psa. 4:4, Psa. 63:6, Lk. 21:37

- At waking time, one can start the day meditating on a portion of God's word. Gen 19:27, Psa. 77:6 Psa. 119:148, Lk 21:38
- Thirdly at specific time set aside for Bible study and thinking on the Word each day. Gen. 24:63; Psa. 27:4;

c. Select a verse or two and reflect on it over and over in your mind Josh. 1:7

d. Three things to do:i-Reading the bible ii- Reflecting on what you read. iii- Respond to it. This is by making personal application of our observations and understanding of the text.

C. APPLICATION OF MEDITATION

Through meditation we internalize God's Word so that it could become personal or real in our daily work as Christians by answering the following questions.

a. How does this truth apply to my life in four spheres:in my personal life, in my family, at work, in my church, and in my neighborhood? Matt. 7:1-5

b. In view of this truth, what specific changes should I make in my life? Heb. 4:12.

c. How do I want to carry out these changes? We need to be specific here. James 1:22

d. There are three major things that militate against good meditation time

i. Noise ii. Hurry iii. Crowd.

CONCLUSION

One important thing the Bible tells us to do is to think about God's Word. Our thoughts determine our behavior and so what we think about is very important. Phil. 4:8 "Meditation refocuses us from ourselves and from the world so that we reflect on God's Word, His nature, His abilities, and His works. The goal is simply to permit the Holy Spirit to activate the life-giving Word of God" Bruce Demarest

QUESTIONS

1. Mention 5 reasons a good Christian should meditate on Gods Word?
2. What are the practical things to do in other to have a good meditation time?
3. List the 3 things that militate against good meditation time?
4. How can one internalize to personalize the Word of God?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Psa. 19:14 - Meditation should come from the heart

TUE: Heb. 8:10 - It is necessary to meditate on God's word which is in the heart.

WED: 1 Sam. 25:17 - Good decisions are products of good meditation

THUR: Psa. 8:3 - One essential aspect of meditation is the creations of God.

FRI: Pro. 6:6 - Wisdom for a fruitful living is in meditation.

SAT: Isa. 46:8 - Think of your ways and be repentant.

SUN: Heb. 10: 24 - Let the meditation on the strength of others propel you to love.

LESSON 10
ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE - PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22*

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 35:1-19

INTRODUCTION

Obedience is carrying out the word and will of another person. It implies compliance with the demands and requests of one in authority. Absolute obedience therefore is to carry out the demands and requests of one in authority and this time, God. Disobedience is a sin, we have a good example in Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God, Rom. 5:19. Absolute obedience to God is clearly stressed in both the New Testament and the Old Testament.

OUTLINES

A. THE MEANING OF ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE

B. REWARD OF ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE

A. THE MEANING OF ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE

Absolute obedience is to be ready to carry out every instruction given by God in love, John 14:15-16; Heb. 11:6 -11. It is reading, hearing, preaching and doing the word of God, Josh. 1:8. It is also living a holy life, Rom. 12:1-2. It means giving cheerfully and generously, 2 Cor. 9:6-9. Absolute obedience includes paying your tithe correctly, Mal. 3:8-10. Another area of absolute obedience is in training your children the way of God, Jer. 35:12-15. We could add to this list. To some of us, total disobedience is not our problem, but half-obedience. God hates those who are neither cold nor hot, Mk. 12:29-30; Rev. 3:15-16.

B. REWARD OF ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE

There are many rewards attached to absolute obedience. One is that you will become a friend of God, John 15:14. A known reward is that you will eat the good of the land, Isa. 1:19. Another reward is that you will rule, reign and have dominion over all things, Deut. 28:1-13. Absolute obedience can guarantee protection from enemies, Deut. 28:7. You will become a channel of blessings to people and nations if you obey God completely, Deut. 28:3-13. God will keep His covenant with you and your descendants, Jer. 35:17-19. Whosoever wants to enjoy God's blessing must cultivate the habit of obeying Him whole heartedly - Deut 28:1. God is ready to make you a peculiar treasure unto Him - Ex. 19:5. He will also be an enemy to the enemies of those who follow Him wholeheartedly, Ex. 23:22. Diseases will be kept away from anyone who obeys God diligently, Ex. 15:26.

CONCLUSION

The rewards of obedience are many and God who demands total obedience from His children is always willing to supply the needed grace for it. Absolute obedience gives us grace to commune with God and to receive blessings from Him.

QUESTIONS

1. What is absolute obedience?
2. Name four rewards of absolute obedience.
3. What are some of the promises of God for total obedience?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Prov. 3:3-5 – Let love and faithfulness never leave you.

TUE: Prov. 2:10-14 – Wisdom will save you from the ways of the wicked men.

WED: Ps. 119:14-48 – I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love.

THUR: I Pet. 2:6-10 – God has chosen you out as His masterpiece.

FRI: I Sam. 15:18-24 – Obedience is better than sacrifice.

SAT: Lam. 3:22-24 – Great is thy faithfulness upon my life.

SUN: Ps. 9:1-3 – I will praise you, O Lord, will all my heart.

LESSON 11
ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE – PART 2

MEMORY VERSE: *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth." Deuteronomy 28:1*

LESSON TEXT: Deuteronomy 28:1-14

INTRODUCTION

We have learnt that any disobedience is a sin and that partial obedience is worse. Obedience to God brings with it a lot of blessings. We need to study what we will gain by hearkening to the voice of God and look at some other people who obeyed Him in the Bible. May God teach us as we learn in His feet in Jesus Name.

OUTLINES

A. CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

B. EXAMPLES OF PATRIARCHS OF OBEDIENCE

A. CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

Every disobedient earns curse(s) from God - Deut 11:28; Daniel 9:11. Disobedience receives God's judgment. Every believer who disobeys God is courting His wrath, Eph. 5:6. God will use flaming fire to take vengeance on the disobedient people - 2 Thess. 1:8. If God punished the people of old who disobeyed Him, He has not changed, 1 Sam. 12:15. God can destroy a nation who refuses to obey Him - Jeremiah 12:17. Moses disobeyed God's direct command and God called it a dishonor to Him, God. The result is that Moses did not enter into the promised land, Num. 20:10-12. Those who obeyed God half-heartedly include Abraham. God told Abraham to do three things - to get out of the country, get out of his kindred and to get out of his father's house - Gen. 12:4-5, 9-10. He was supposed to meet

blessings, according to God's promise but he met a grievous famine. God did not talk to him until he parted ways with Lot, Gen 13:14-16. Also, God asked King Saul to wipe out the Amalekites and to utterly destroy everything in their country. He went there and killed everybody except the king and fat cattle - 1 Sam 15:3, 8-9, 11-22.

B. EXAMPLES OF PATRIARCHS OF OBEDIENCE

There are many examples of people in the Bible who obeyed God absolutely. If it is possible for these people, obedience is equally achievable for today's believers. Let us look at few of them:

1. Abraham was additionally blessed on one occasion because he obeyed God in offering Isaac on the altar – Gen.22:18; Gen.26:5.
2. The Rechabites, the children of Jonadab. Their father had commanded them not to drink wine throughout their life time. For hearkening to the instruction of their father, God showered His blessings upon his lineage – Jer. 35:1-19.
3. Joseph. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of overseeing his house and all that he had. Joseph became Prime Minister in a foreign land because he refused to sin against God, he obeyed God absolutely - Gen. 39:7-9; 41:14-45.
4. Paul. Paul, after his conversion, followed God absolutely. He served God with zeal and seriousness it deserved. No wonder he knew the time of his departure from the world. He saw the crown waiting for him - Romans 1:5; 1 Cor. 15:10; Rom. 16:26; 2 Tim 4:6-8.
5. Jesus. Jesus Christ is our perfect example. He kept His Father's commandment throughout His ministry here on earth. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death - John 4:34; Phil 2:6-11

CONCLUSION

Evidence that a person is a child of God is continued obedience to the commandments of God. Every believer must cultivate the habit of obedience to God. Obedience to Him will put you at great advantage. Fringe benefits of obedience include sound health, joy, peace and wisdom - Phil. 2:5, 3 John 2

QUESTIONS

1. What are the consequences of disobedience?
2. How can we overcome disobedience?
3. Name some examples of patriarchs of obedience.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Luke 6:46 - Let us serve God out of a pure and sincere heart.

TUE: Ex 23:21 - Sin will always attract punishment, for God's eyes cannot behold iniquity.

WED: Is 1:19 - Obedience to God will earn you blessings, no matter where you are.

THUR: John 14:15 - The love of God is supposed to propel us to obey Him.

FRI: Phil 2:8 - Humility is one the ways to show you are obedient to God.

SAT: James 1:22 - Be the doer of the word, not the hearer only.

SUN: Pr 30: 17 - Our earthly parents and those in authority over us must be obeyed.

LESSON 12
STOP THE EXCUSES

MEMORY VERSE: *"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

LESSON TEXT – Luke 14:15-24

INTRODUCTION

It was a great honor to be invited to a wedding in Bible times because wedding was very expensive and decline was an insult. It is amazing therefore that people declined the invitations in the story. What are the invitations today? Why do people decline? What did the master do and what is the implication of these to us today? It is our prayer that the Lord will teach us by Himself in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. THE GREAT INVITATION

B. THE EXCUSES

C. THERE ARE SUBSTITUTES

A. THE GREAT INVITATION

There is going to be a great feast for those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ paid the price for everybody, Jn. 3:16. He sent His servant to them that were invited, Titus 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:21. It is left to the guests to accept or not, Matt. 22:14; Mk. 7:6; Titus 1:16; Jn. 3:18. An invitation to holiness as a yardstick to see the Lord is another invitation to those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, Heb. 12:14.

B. THE EXCUSES – LK. 14:18

1st Excuse – The man bought a piece of grounds to be inspected and developed. This represents investments that would not allow the man to accept the invitation, Matt. 16:26; 2 Tim. 2:4; Ps. 39:6; Eccl. 2:20

2nd Excuse – The man was into new purchases. This could be new academic achievements or some additions to live, Lk. 21:34; Rom. 12:3; Tit. 2:12; Jam. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-16; Deut. 32:15; Ps. 17:10

3rd Excuse – He was married and needs to settle down, Lk. 14:33; Jn. 21:15-17; Deut. 10:12

C. THERE ARE SUBSTITUTES – LK. 14:21-23

The plan of the master was not aborted or halted because of the absence of those who turned down the invitation rather there were substitutes for them. He sent His servants to the highways – How? 2 Cor. 5:11; 9:2; 2 Tim. 4:2 Matt. 10:27; Mk. 16:15

CONCLUSION

What are our excuses today for God's instructions? Remember that no one serves God from a comfort zone. The way to Canaan was the way of the red sea, Marah and wilderness. The Lord can strengthen you and make the journey easy, let us talk to Him now.

QUESTIONS

1. Who is inviting today?
2. What is the banquet and who is marrying?
3. Give some Biblical examples of God's substitute

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Lk. 14:24 – You must accept the invitation before you can participate in the banquet.

TUES: Jn. 21:15 – You must go beyond being bread and butter Christian

WED: Jn. 21:16 – One of the invitations is taking care of the sheep.

THUR: Eccl. 2:20 – There is a forsaking in effective service to the Lord.

FRI: Ps. 17:10 – Acceptance of the invitation must start from the heart.

SAT: Jer.35:17-19 – God will keep His covenant with you and your descendants.

SUN: Acts 3:25 – The blessings of Abraham, by God's covenant, is also ours.

LESSON 13
THE FIRST QUARTER INTERACTIVE SESSION

WELCOME TO THE FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION

YOUR PRIVILEGE:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

LESSON 14
RESTING BEFORE TIME

MEMORY VERSE: – "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1.

LESSON TEXT: 1 Peter 2:11-12

INTRODUCTION

Our God is a God of orderliness. He has made everything beautiful in His time, Ecc. 3: 11. As we go through this study may He grant us the wisdom and grace to understand the time and how to act accordingly in our marriage and family life in Jesus' name.

OUTLINES

A. WE ARE STRANGERS ON EARTH

B. IT IS NOT YET TIME TO REST

A. WE ARE STRANGERS ON EARTH

As believers, we must realize that we are aliens and pilgrims here on earth and at the close of age we shall give account of our pilgrimage, 1 Chr. 29:15; Ps. 39:12; Heb. 11:13-16; 1 Pet. 2:11. Abraham saw life as a pilgrimage, Gen. 47:9. We must seek the new city, Heb. 13:14. We must constantly remember that Jesus Christ has gone to prepare a place for us, Jn. 14:2-3. As strangers on earth, Ps. 119:19, God expects us to remember that there is time for all things under the earth, Eccl. 3:1-8; 1 Chr. 12:32. We must work with the time. To do this, we must have a goal and be focused, Hab. 2:2; John 9:4.

B. NOT YET TIME TO REST

Jesus said "I must work the work of him that send me, while it is day, the night cometh, when no men can work." – Jn. 9:4. It is not time to rest yet. The king's business requires haste – 1 Sam. 21:8. Therefore, the hour to work is now – Ps.119:60; Eccl. 12:1. We must not rest or give up in praying for our marriage, home, family, spouse, parents and children. It is dangerous to rest or give up in the battle front with the enemy around, 1 Pet. 5:8-9. The Lord has given us power demons and it is not for resting, Lk. 10:19; Acts 13:8 12. No matter the situation, God has the solution. However there is a rest that the Lord has reserved for eternal rest, Rev. 6:11; 14:13. Rest comes to the live of a believer when he/she accepts Jesus Christ, Matt. 11-28-30. Rest will be provided after Jesus Christ returns, 2 Thess. 1:7.

CONCLUSION

God, the maker of Heaven and earth worked for six days and rested on the seventh day. As true children and followers of Christ, we must follow suit. However, rest is always pleasant after labor, but dangerous within it. Let us continue to work in love and faith until we enter into His rest.

QUESTIONS

1. What do we mean by understanding the time?
2. Why is it not yet time to rest?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Psalms 38 :9 – Lord, give me grace to desire your will most.

TUES: John 9:4 – I must be by my Master's business.

Weds.:Psalm 3:1 – Lord, create a thirst in me to keep on keeping on

THUR: Matthew 10 :39- Lord, help me to get more committed to Christ.

FRI: 1 Cor 15 :58 – Lord, let my labor not be in vain.

SAT: John 5 :39 – Father, help me to spend time with your word always

SUN: Isaiah 6 :8 - 9 –Father, let me be ready always to do God's work with our whole earth

LESSON 15
IN AND OUT OF SEASON

MEMORY VERSE: *"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezekiel 33:11*

LESSON TEXT: Ezekiel 33:7-11

INTRODUCTION

Soul winning is an act of drawing man back to his Maker - 2 Cor.5:18. It entails more than evangelism. It is about producing heaven-bound candidates. Being a spiritual matter, it requires divine intervention – Jn.6:44. Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price for the redemption of every soul through the shed blood – Heb.9:22. The salvation of a single soul stirs up celebration even in Heaven. It is our prayer that your hearts will be enlightened as we study this crucial act in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD

B. TOOLS FOR SOULWINNING

A. THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD

Obviously, God wants every soul to be saved – 2 Pe. 3:9. Right after the fall of the first Adam, God initiated means of reconciling man to Himself – Ezek. 45:15; Heb. 2:17. He takes no pleasure in a sinner's death – Ezek.33:11. In His mercy, He patiently waits for every man to repent and turn to Him – Is. 30:18. God has more than enough room to accommodate all souls – Jer. 32:27- provided they turn to Him – Ezek. 18:4. In fact, God came in the flesh primarily to win souls of the lost – Matt. 18:11. He did not just save us but has given to us one common ministry which is the ministry of reconciliation – 2 Cor. 5:18. The blood of the wicked shall be required

from you if you fail to win souls – Ezek. 33:7-8. This heartbeat of God must be followed completely – Jer. 26:2.

B. TOOLS FOR SOUL WINNING

When God commissions a man, He equips and empowers him – Matt.28:19; Matt.10:1. The primary requirement for soul winning is to be born again – Mk. 3:13-14. The blind cannot lead the blind. Here are the tools required by the soul winner:

i. To be filled with the Holy Spirit, coupled with a good knowledge of the scriptures, Acts 1:8; 1 Tim. 3:16

ii. Compassion and genuine concern for the salvation of souls – Matt. 9:36; Lk. 10:33.

iii. Faith that God can save any and all souls – Jer. 32:27.

iv. Zeal to go all-out for souls – 1 Cor. 9:22.

v. Prayers to break limiting barriers and obstacles – Rom. 10:1.

vi. Wisdom to respond to issues raised – Dan. 12:3; Jn. 4:7-30.

vii. Sacrifice of personal rights and privileges – 1 Cor. 9:19-20.

viii. Patience to get souls yield to the truth. Do not give up.

ix. Holy living to show the way by what you do and not just what you say.

CONCLUSION

It is the responsibility of a believer to win souls and not a choice. It is a wise thing to do, Pro.11:30. God will reward soul winners with crowns – 1 Thess.2:19. The complacent Christian will be punished for negligence of duty – Lk.12:47

QUESTIONS

1. What is soul winning?
2. Why is soul winning the heartbeat of God?

3. Enumerate the tools needed for soul winning?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Mk.4:29 – Go out to win souls. The harvest is ripe.

TUE: Jn.4:36 – Soul winning attracts rewards.

WED: Ezek.33:7 – The blood of the wicked shall be required from you. Win souls now.

THUR: Pro.11:30 – To be wise, join the company of the wise. Win souls.

FRI: Matt.4:19 – Follow the steps of Jesus in soul winning.

SAT: Jude 1:23 – Save men from being burnt.

SUN: Dan. 12: 3 – Win a radiant crown.

LESSON 16
CONFESSING CHRIST

MEMORY VERSE: *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven, Matthew 10:32.*

LESSON TEXT: Romans 10:8-18

INTRODUCTION

There are two stages in the confession of Christ, one before salvation and leading to it, Rom. 10: 9, and the other after salvation, Matt. 10: 32-33. One may ask the question: is it possible to be a secret believer? And the answer is "yes, for a short time." In John 19: 38, Joseph of Arimathaea was a secret believer, but later he openly confessed Christ by asking for the body of Jesus. Similarly, no one who had been truly born again can remain for long without letting people know that Christ has taken over his life.

OUTLINES

A. WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO CONFESS CHRIST

B. HOW IT CAN BE DONE

C. HOW OFTEN MUST IT BE DONE?

D. WHAT ACTUALLY IS CONFESSION OF CHRIST?

E. WHAT PREVENTS PEOPLE FROM CONFESSING CHRIST

F. WHY IT IS DANGEROUS TO KEEP QUIET?

A. WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO CONFESS CHRIST

There are six main reasons why a believer must confess Christ. They are:

i. There are two parts to salvation:believing in the heart and confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord.

ii. Confession of Christ brings real joy to the convert.

iii. Confession of Christ solves many problems. Others know who you are and what you stand for and respect you for a clear-cut stand. The world despises a weak, cowardly and secret Christian. Temptations to worldly places of amusements are halted and invitations to Christian gatherings increase.

iv. A witnessing Christian is not likely to backslide. Backsliders can trace their downfall to their failure to confess Christ publicly.

v. If someone does a great thing for you, it is natural to tell everyone about it. We are saved by Christ, and this is the greatest thing anyone can do for us therefore we should tell the news to everyone, and

vi. We must confess Christ audibly because Christ commanded it in, Matt. 10:32-33.

B. HOW IT CAN BE DONE

Confessing Christ can be done:

i. Publicly in a Church gathering, prayer meeting or open-air crusade.

ii. Privately to your friends, relatives and neighbors, in daily conversation.

iii. In public baptism, in association with a good, truly spiritual, active Christian Church.

iv. By constant attendance at Church services and

v. To everybody, near and far by letters, e-mail, instant messaging; phone calls etc. Acts 1:8.

C. HOW OFTEN MUST IT BE DONE?

Is one public confession enough for life? No, it is something that we must do repeatedly. The Christian life that is not full of constant Christ confession will not grow. Such a Christian will gradually grow cold and may even die spiritually. How can you hide a fire within your heart? Matt. 5:15.

D. WHAT ACTUALLY IS CONFESSION OF CHRIST?

Confessing Christ is not necessarily preaching sermons, but telling the simple story of what Christ has done for us. Tell the simple fact of your conversion:what you used to be and what you are now. Tell about answers to prayer that you have received, Ps. 50:15. Tell about the satisfaction that Christ gives you and be sincere about it. Tell about personal victory over sin and temptations. Tell about how God speaks to you today during your private prayer time. Speak of the Savior's power to save, heal, bless and set free. Speak of His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, second coming and of future judgment.

E. WHAT PREVENTS PEOPLE FROM CONFESSING CHRIST

There are three major hindrances to public confession of Christ, namely:

i. Fear of man:Many people are afraid of what people will say or think if they know that they have accepted Christ. The cure for that is in, 2 Tim 1:7.

ii. Shame:Many are ashamed of publicly declaring for Christ, The cure for that is, 2 Tim 1:8.

iii. Impure life:Many are afraid that their personal lives are such that they should not be known as Christians. If that is the case, then maybe you are not even saved yet. Then seek salvation first, 1 John 1:9. You have no reason to be afraid because the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed all your sins and this is your confession.

F. WHY IS IT DANGEROUS TO KEEP QUIET?

If we do not tell others about Christ and His powers, how then will they come to admire Him and accept Him? Ezek. 33:8, is a solemn warning to the silent believer on the Lord Jesus Christ! Pray for courage so that you may be able to start confessing Christ as from today.

QUESTIONS

1. What is confessing Christ?
2. How often and where must I confess Christ?

3. What happens if I keep quiet?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: I John 1:9 - Confess your salvation because the blood of Jesus has cleansed from all your sins.

TUE: John 12:42-43 - Do not allow the fear of men or positions prevent your confession of Christ.

WED: Phil. 4:13 - You can do all things with Christ in your life including confessing Him.

THUR: I Cor. 12:3 - Check if the Spirit of God is in you if you are not confessing Christ.

FRI: Acts 5:20 - The words of Christ to confess are in you, open your mouth and the Lord will fill you.

SAT: I JN. 5:11 - Eternal life which is in Jesus Christ is what the Lord has commanded us to confess.

SUN: Rev. 3: 5 - Confess Christ on earth and He will confess you in heaven.

LESSON 17
PRAISE

MEMORY VERSE: *"Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights," Psalms, 148:1.*

LESSON TEXT - Psalms 148:1-14

INTRODUCTION

What is the most important thing in life? Is it to earn a living, Or to get saved and go to heaven? In fact, why was man created? The answer is simply to praise God, to glorify Him, Isa. 43: 7. Our life is expected to be one continuous song of praise to the glory of God, 1 Cor. 10: 31. But what is praise? It is to honor, to worship, to glorify. The Hebrew word "YADAH" which is translated "PRAISE" also means "TO STRETCH OUT THE HAND." That is to hold out hands in reverence, to open the hands and let go of everything, just to stand and glorify God open-handed.

OUTLINES

A. PRAISE IS COMPULSORY

B. REASONS TO PRAISE THE LORD

C. HOW TO PRAISE HIM

A. PRAISE IS COMPULSORY

Is it compulsory to praise the Lord? Or am I free to choose not to praise Him? We shall let the Bible answer these important questions for us. And we shall discover that praise is compulsory for angels, Ps. 103:20, compulsory for saints or believers, Ps. 117:1, even children are not exempted, Matt. 21:16. In fact they know how best to praise the Lord, which is one of the reasons why Christ said that, unless we accept the Kingdom of God as a little child, we would not be able to enter therein, Matt. 18:3-4.

Whether you are a pastor or a new convert, governor or janitor, a prince or a commoner, it is compulsory for you to praise the Lord, Ps. 148:11-13, in fact all creations are to praise the Lord. God gets praise from the heavens, the heights, angels, hosts, sun, moon, stars, the earth, dragons, deep, fire, hail, snow, vapors, stormy winds, hills, mountains, fruits, trees, cedar trees, beasts, cattle, creeping things and birds, Ps. 148:1-10.

B. REASONS TO PRAISE THE LORD

There are several reasons why we must praise the Lord. We shall list some of them. We are sure you can think of several others.

First, we should praise the Lord because of His Majesty, Isa. 24:14. It is customary to address as King as "Your Majesty" but the Lord is the King of kings and Lord of lords, surely He deserves to be praised.

Secondly, we should praise the Lord because of His glory, Ps. 138:5; 1 Chron. 16:24. A king's glory is reflected in his dress, and the quality of his possessions. But the Lord is clothed in light and rides upon the waves!

Thirdly, we should praise the Lord because of His greatness, Ps. 145:3. Surely there is no one as great as the King of kings and the Creator of all things; surely no creature can be greater than the One who created him.

Fourthly, we should praise the Lord because of His power, Ps. 21:13. The Lord said that all power has been given unto Him, be they powers in heaven, on earth or underneath the earth. Surely, the Almighty Lord deserves continuous praise from His children.

Fifthly, we should praise the Lord because of His goodness, Ps. 107:8, 15, 21, 31, 1 Chron. 16:34. This is so important that it is repeated four times. Has the Lord been good to you? Surely He has been good to us. If He has been good to you too, then you should praise Him.

Sixthly, we should praise the Lord because of His mercy, 2 Chr. 20:21. We are saved through His mercy. We are kept alive through His mercy. The enemy had not been able to overcome us or destroy us because of His mercy. Great and everlasting is His mercy. Such a merciful God deserves our praise.

Seventhly, we should praise the Lord because of His wonderful works, Ps. 150:2. These works include creation, redemption, consolation, just judgment, true counsel, faithfulness in keeping His promises, pardon of sin, spiritual and physical health, constant preservation, protection, answered prayer, the hope of glory and all physical, material and spiritual blessings, Praise the Lord.

C. HOW TO PRAISE HIM

We should praise the Lord with understanding, Ps. 47:7, with our soul, Ps. 103:1, and with the whole heart, Ps. 9:1. We are also to praise Him with our mouth and lips, Ps. 51:15; Ps. 63:3. Though it is compulsory that we should praise the Lord, we must do so joyfully and with gladness, 2 Chron. 29:30. We are to praise Him day by day, continually and to the end of our lives, Ps. 71:6; 104:33. Let us praise the Lord!

QUESTIONS

1. What type of people should praise the Lord?
2. Why is it compulsory to praise the Lord?
3. Give some reasons why we ought to praise Him?
4. How should we praise Him?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Psalm 33:5 - God is faithful in His judgments and therefore worthy of our praises.

TUE: Psalm 138:2 - He should be praised for His loving-kindness.

WED: Praise has no limit it could be offered even on our beds.

THUR: Isaiah 25:1 - Take stock of the wonderful things God has done in your life and you will realize He deserves to be praised.

FRI: Psalm 147:7 - We must not keep quiet because the Lord gave us our mouth as an instrument to praise Him.

SAT: Philippians 4:6 - We can use the method of praise to express our requests to the Lord.

SUN: Proverb 27: 2 - Do not praise yourself.

LESSON 18
CONGREGATIONAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP

MEMORY VERSE: *"Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!" Psalm 150:1*

LESSON TEXT - Psalm 150:1-6

INTRODUCTION

It is tempting to view praise and worship as just an item on the order of service without understanding the purposes for which we do it. We typically just rise up and sing songs as the worship leader tells us to do and some of the time wondering when it will end so you can get back to our seats.

OUTLINES

A. PURPOSES OF CONGREGATIONAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP

B. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A PARTICIPANT

A. PURPOSES OF CONGREGATIONAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP

1. Minister unto the Lord:We first and foremost gather in our services to bless the Lord as we praise and worship. Deut. 21:5; I Pet. 2:9; Psalm 134

2. Invite the manifest presence of God:God inhabits the praises of his people and in His presence His power is revealed. Psa. 22:3 His presence is the distinguishing factor between a gathering of believers and all other social gatherings such as the rotary club or PTA. Lk. 5:17

3. Creates a conducive atmosphere for the expressions of the gifts of the Spirit:The sight of one of the kings that came to request counsel from Elijah put him off. He then had to request a minstrel to be brought

to create the atmosphere where he could express his prophetic gift 2 Kings 3:11-20

4. Opens the channels of communication between God and us Psalm 42:2. Singing songs of praise and worship to God helps us focus on God as we communicate with him. This sometimes provides people who have not prayed or read their Bibles in a while an opportunity to connect with God during the service.
5. Teach and reinforce spiritual truth Rev. 4:11; 7:12; Ex. 15:11. Some of the songs we sing are straight out of God's word, What better way to reinforce God's truth than to sing it out aloud.
6. Prepares our hearts to receive the word Psa. 119:18, Psa. 85:8. It is easier to receive the word after a session of praise and worship even if it is a rebuke. This is because your spirit would have become more sensitive to His spirit.
7. Helps to vocally confess your faith. Psa. 118:15, Psa. 66:5

Our faith confessions can be expressed with the songs that are used for praise and worship.

B. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A PARTICIPANT

1. Preparation

To prepare oneself to partake optimally in the experience of congregational praise and worship, we should pray 1thessalonians 5:17. Reading the word, especially the psalms, will tune our hearts for worship. Also, dealing with sin in our lives so that we can enter his presence without guilt Psalm 15, Matthew 5:23-24

2. Posture

The only furniture that God did not ask to be put in the holy of holies was a chair. Hebrews 9:1-5; 2 Chronicles. 4:19-22. No provision was made for chair because sitting to praise and worship God does not show revere or respect for Him. Being on our feet or knees also helps to keep us alert and more focused. Forms of postures that can be taken

Thank you Holy Spirit for Leading us to Sing the Rhema word Rev 7:12.

during congregational praise and worship include:Lifting of our hands, clapping of hands, playing musical instrument, standing, kneeling, bowing and prostration, dancing and shouting.

3. **Keep the right attitude**

   Decide to be self-motivated Psalm 34:1. And take responsibility to stir yourself up to participate in exhorting and glorifying God. Choose not be a spectator. Fully participating should occur and be irrespective of whether your favorite songs are being sung or not; the choir not singing well or the instrumentalist is making mistakes.

Also, do not approach God for a hand-out rather reach out to bless Him. Psalm 63:1 Release yourself and have an attitude of humility James 4:6

CONCLUSION

Do not be a spectator when praise and worship is going on at your local church services. It has purposes and it will be beneficial to your local church if treated with importance.

QUESTIONS

1. Why are the purposes for having praise and worship at church?
2. How can you participate effectively in congregational praise and worship?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ps. 103:1 – Be proactive about praising and worshiping God, with or without external stimulus.

TUE: Ps. 34:1-3 – Join the people of God to magnify His name.

WED: Jn. 4:23 – God seeks true worshippers. Decide to be one of them.

THUR: Ps. 122:1 – Coming with the proper attitude to church enhances your participation in the worship service.

FRI: Heb. 9:1-5 – No provision for sitting during praise and worship has been made. Revere God and rise up to praise Him.

SAT: Ps. 22:3 – Willingly engage yourself in congregational praise and worship to experience the manifest presence of God.

SUN: Ps. 100:3 – Come before the Lord with singing and thanksgiving. He desires to be ministered to.

LESSON 19
KEEPING YOUR JOY

MEMORY VERSE: *"Rejoice in the Lord always: And again I say, rejoice." Philippians 4:4*

BIBLE PASSAGE: Philippians 4: 1-7

INTRODUCTION

Joy, like every other fruit of the spirit, is a character trait one expects to see in the life of a Christian that is maturing Gal. 5: 22. It can be defined as deep happiness and contentment. We are instructed in Phil. 4: 4 to always rejoice i.e. be full of joy. Also, joy is a source of strength as seen in Ne. 8: 10. In order to have strength to sustain us in our Christian walk we would need to keep our joy at all times

OUTLINES

A. JOY STEALERS

B. HOW TO KEEP YOUR JOY

A. JOY STEALERS

1. Worry – To worry is to afflict oneself with mental distress or agitation; to be anxious about a real or imagined issue. This process of afflicting, tormenting or harassing oneself about issues that one is dealing with will continue to erode one's joy. These will eventually sap strength from a person. These issues are best left at the Master's feet Phil. 4:6-7, Matt. 5:25-34.

2. Jealousy and envy –To envy is to feel resentful and unhappy because someone else possesses, or has achieved, what one wishes oneself to possess, or to have achieved. Jealousy, on the other hand, denotes a feeling of resentment that another has gained something that one thinks they more rightfully deserve. Prov. 14:30. These

two joy stealers come as a result of comparing ourselves with others Ecc. 4:4 and can make us feel that since God has blessed them not us, then there is nothing to be joyful about.

3. Anger – Being angry when people offend or disappointment you is another joy stealer. David was so angry with Nabal that he wanted to kill him. He was so angry that he was devoid of joy before he knew it 1 Sam. 25:4-13; 23-28

4. Discontentment – To be discontent is to be dissatisfied; unhappy with your present circumstances. A discontent person does not know how to be joyful in his present situation and enjoy the good or benefits he currently has. Ecclesiastes 4:8; Luke 3:13-15.

B. HOW TO KEEP YOUR JOY

1. Trust God. Pro. 3:3-5 rely on his integrity, strength, ability etc. Put your confidence in him to be the one to sort out the issues you are worried about. Also, that He is able to make all things beautiful in His time and that he will be your avenger Ecclesiastes 3:11, Psalm 18:47.

2. Forgive quickly. Ephesians 4:32, Learn to forgive people quickly as possible. Do not give room for the offence to settle as bitterness in your heart Hebrews 12:15. Only when you do not let it take root can you keep your joy.

3. Choose to be content Philippians 4:10-13, 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Hebrews. 13:5. Be happy with what God has given you and believe that He will promote you in His perfect timing.

CONCLUSION

A person with joy expresses confidence in God despite circumstances; whatever happens. This gives him strength to hold up even when the details of his life appear out of control and he will be able to keep his joy.

QUESTIONS

1. Why should we keep our joy?
2. What can you do to stop your joy from being stolen?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Phil. 4:4 – God desires you to be joyful in Him always.

TUE: Ecc. 3:11 – We can rejoice in God's perfect timing.

WED: Heb. 12:15 – Keep bitterness from your heart to remain joyful.

THUR: Jn. 15:11 – May God keep my joy full.

FRI: Jam. 1:2 – Despite your circumstance, choose to be joyful

SAT: Gal. 5:22 – May God perfect the fruit of joy in your life.

SUN: 1 Tim. 6: 6 – Desire to stay content so you can be joyful.

LESSON 20
YOU MUST REMEMBER

MEMORY VERSE - *"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day" Deuteronomy 8:18*

LESSON TEXT - Deuteronomy 8:11-18

INTRODUCTION

David called on us to bless the Lord. He recalled the situation of His fall and how he rose from grass to grace and said that we should not forget ALL His benefits, Ps. 103: 2. It is often easy to recall wrongs rather than the good aspects of life. David was able to defeat Goliath by recalling the benefits of the Lord, 1 Sam. 17: 31-37. Spouses, most often, hardly see each other from the angle of strength but from the area of weaknesses. We hardly hear people appreciate God for the daily mercies that are taken for granted. The Bible therefore warns people to beware because it is easy to forget. It is our prayers that the Lord will teach us today in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. THOSE WHO FORGOT

B. WHY PEOPLE FORGET

A. THOSE WHO FORGOT

There are several examples of people in the Bible who forgot the goodness or mercies of the Lord. The elders in Israel, chosen to spy the land of Canaan forgot the God who delivered them from slavery in Egypt. They did not remember the red sea experience or the God who turned bitter water into sweet water at Marah. Everyone saw giants but only two saw God to be greater than the giants, Num. 13:32-33; 14:1. They forgot God's covenant with them and their fathers, 2 Kings 17:36-40. The men of David forgot

who they were, 1 Sam. 22:1-2, but for God and David in their lives; they planned to stone David, 1 Sam. 30:1-6. Only one leper came back to express appreciation to Jesus Christ, Lk. 17:17-18. Herod forgot the mercies of God and was eaten up by worms, Acts 12:21-24.

B. WHY PEOPLE FORGET

There are several reasons why people forget the mercies of the Lord. They include changes in environment. The children of Israel left the sufferings in Egypt for Canaan and they forgot God's mercies by murmuring against God. Success is another reason people forget to praise God. When man has eaten and is full, Dt. 8:12; 2 Chr. 26:1-15, there is the tendency to forget God. Prosperity may give birth to complacency and man may forget the mercies of God, Dt. 8:12-14. When sin multiplies, it is often hard to remember the mercies of the Lord, Matt. 24:12-13. Pride, thoughts that achievements is due to personal hard work only without God and seeking the Lord may not be a way of life, 2 Chr. 26:16-21.

CONCLUSION

God chose us to show forth the praise of Him who has called us from darkness into His marvellous light, 1 Pet. 2:9. We must therefore not forget His benefits

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it easy for people to remember evil situations than good ones?
2. Give some examples of people who forgot the goodness of God
3. How do people demonstrate their appreciation to God?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Deut. 7:18 - If God did it in the past, He can do it again

TUE: 2 Kg. 17:38 - God is a covenant keeper, He will not fail you.

WED: Ps. 20:7 - The best arm that cannot fail is God.

THUR: Ps. 44:17 - Nothing will take the memory of God from us.

FRI: Jon. 2:7 - You cannot afford to faint in the place of prayer.

SAT: Ps. 63:6 - You must remember God day and night.

SUN: 2 Chr. 26: 4 - Train up your child not to forget God.

LESSON 21
YOU MUST TRY THIS

MEMORY VERSE: *"Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits" Psalms 103:2*

LESSON TEXT - 1 Samuel 17:38-39

INTRODUCTION

You seek for something that is rare and precious. The father is seeking for worshippers, Jn. 4: 23, because worship is precious to Him. What are some of the experiences of David as a young man? God said that He found David, a man after His own heart, Acts 13: 22. What did God find in David? How can this experience help us today? It is our prayer that the Lord will help us to take very good decisions in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

OUTLINES

A. THE MAN DAVID

B. WHAT HE TRIED

A. THE MAN DAVID

We want to look at the area of worship in the life of the man David. He was a man skilful in playing a musical instrument, harp. He became a deliverance minister to king Saul, using praise and worship to cast away demons, 1 Sam. 16:14-23. One of his composition is, "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth," Ps. 34:1. He was the man who said, "Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!" Ps. 103:1. All that is within includes lungs, intestine, liver, colon, etc. He therefore danced lavishly before the Lord, 2 Sam. 6:14-16. He is the man who appreciated that the heights he achieved in life was not a result of his ability or expertise but gave all the glory to God, 2 Sam. 7:18; 1 Chr. 17:16. We can add to the praise and worship of the Lord by David.

B. WHAT HE TRIED

David refused to face Goliath with the armor of king Saul because he had not tried it, 1 Sam. 17:38-39. He was armed with a human armor that can fail. He went against Goliath with the name of the Lord of host, 1 Sam. 17:45. This is the weapon he had tried, 1 Sam. 17:33-36. "David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee, 1 Sam. 17:37. David must have known that the name of the Lord is a strong tower and that the righteous runs into it and is saved, Pr. 18:10. God exalted Jesus Christ and gave Him a name that is above all names that at this name all knees should bow, Phil. 2:9-11. What have you tried? What weapons do people try today and why are the weapons not reliable?

CONCLUSION

How does the weapon of praise work effectively? If it works for David, it must work for us. Let us employ this weapon as from today.

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think that a worshipper is precious to God.
2. How do we know David to be a man of worship from his compositions?
3. What did David try?
4. Why did the armor of Saul fail on David?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Gen. 29:35 - God is worthy of praise for the gift of life.

TUE: 1 Chr. 16:36 - The Lord must be blessed from generation to generation.

WED: Ezra 3:10 - You are the temple of the Lord and should be full of His praise.

THUR: Ps. 7:17 - The Lord should be praised for His righteousness.

FRI: Ps. 18:49 - The Lord should be praised among both believers and unbelievers.

SAT: Isa. 38:19 - Only the living can praise the Lord.

SUN: Dan. 2:19 - Our God should be praised for dreams and visions.

LESSON 22
BE SEPARATE

MEMORY VERSE - *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 1 John 2:15.*

LESSON TEXT: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:1-8.

INTRODUCTION

We are told not to love the world, or the things that are in the world because if any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 1 John 2: 15. Apostle John went further to explain to us the meaning of the word "world." The "world" as used here means "the lust of the flesh" and "the lust of the eye" and the "pride of life," 1 John 2: 16. It also means the present world system that is controlled by Satan, together with its political systems, its systems of entertainments and so on. We are to be separated from all these. They however do not include the material blessings of this life, which God gives liberally and richly for all to enjoy, 1 Tim. 6: 17.

OUTLINES

A. WHAT TO BE SEPARATED FROM.

B. RULES TO GUIDE WHN IN DOUBT.

C. RESULTS OF SEPARATION.

A. WHAT TO BE SEPARATED FROM

Basically, we are to separate from all forms of sin and worldly pleasures and be separate unto God. In particular, there are specific things that are definitely forbidden.

Marriage between a believer and an unbeliever is forbidden, 2 Cor. 6:14-17. The Bible says that two cannot walk together except they agree, Amos 3:3. This is a definite Biblical principle that does not change with the passing ages. We are to be separate from all works of darkness, Eph. 5:11.

Business partnership between believers and unbelievers are forbidden by this verse, unbelievers have their ways of doing business that are definitely not righteous. We are to be separate from all works of darkness. Anything that cannot be done openly is evil. This includes all secret cults by whatever name they may be called. We are to be separate from Belial, the old devil, 2 Cor. 6:15. This includes all forms of idol worshipping and customs that are of pagan origin. Not only are we not to participate physically but also we are not to contribute financially either. God the Son is dwelling in any truly born-again Christian and all that he is and has belong to Christ and they should not be used to glorify the devil. We are to be separate from infidels. We cannot even have fellowship with them at all. We are to be separated from heretics, 2 Jn. 1:9-11. We are to be separated from false teachers who dispute about basic doctrines, 1 Tim. 6:5. Anyone who denies the virgin birth, the resurrection and the Divinity of Jesus Christ is to be avoided. Anyone who says you can continue in sin because you are under grace and not under the law is a false teacher. Anyone who denies the power in the Blood of Jesus Christ is to be avoided. We are to be separate from all known forms of sin and immorality including fornication, adultery, alcoholism, smoking, 1 Pet. 1:16. Because our body is not our own, we are God's Temple and God says whoever destroys His Temple will himself be destroyed.

B. RULES TO GUIDE WHEN IN DOUBT

There are situations when we are not sure whether to be separate or not, in such a situation, there are some guiding principles to help us decide what to do.

If my action causes my brother to stumble, then I must not do it, 1 Cor. 8:13. Whatsoever I do, I must be sure it will bring glory to God, otherwise should not do it, 1 Cor. 10:31. I must separate from anything that harms my body, physically mentally or emotionally, 1 Cor. 6:19-20. The best rule is to ask:If Jesus were in my present situation, what would He do? Whatever the honest answer to that question is what I must do also, 1 Pet. 2:21.

C. RESULTS OF SEPARATION

If we live a life of separation from sin and worldly amusements and separated unto God, the following blessings shall be ours:

There will be progressive transformation into the image of Jesus Christ, Rom. 12:2. The Lord will receive us, 2 Cor. 6:17. We shall be a "vessel unto honor fit for the Master's use," 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

CONCLUSION

In making up your mind whether or not to be separate, always remember Moses and Judas, Heb. 11:24-25. Moses chose to be separate Pharaoh and the royal family. He preferred to suffer with the children of Israel. Daniel and the other three Hebrew children chose to be different even in a foreign land. Elisha chose to seek after anointing and his dead bones raised the dead while Gehazi, his servant, chose the pleasures of the world and died a leper. You have a choice

QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the "world" as used in I Jn. 2:15?
2. From what things are we definitely to be separate?
3. When in doubt what are we to do?
4. What are the results of a life of separation?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: James 4:4 - It is dangerous to an enemy of God

TUE: 2 Timothy 4:10 - Do not be tempted to leave Jesus Christ or the one He has chosen for whatever reason.

WED: Hebrews 11:13 - We have a home in glory and remember that the one who laughs last lasts best.

THUR: 2 Timothy 4:7 - What will be your testimony at the end of your pilgrimage on earth?

FRI: Ephesians 5:11 - Think of who you fellowship with and the consequences.

SAT: 2 Timothy 2:4 - A true soldier of Jesus Christ will not be worldly, are you fake?

SUN: Galatians 6:14 - Thank God for Jesus through whom our separation from the world is complete.

LESSON 23
AVOID DISTRACTION

MEMORY VERSE: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

LESSON TEXT - Philippians 3:13-17

INTRODUCTION

There are many things that can distract a child of God on the journey to his promised land. It is very important to avoid such that God had to tell Abraham even at an old age that one of the conditions for God to fulfill His promises with Abraham was a walk before Him. For a man who had no child at age ninety to have the promises of God of having children like the stars of the air, that condition of a walk without distraction was nothing to be taken lightly. If life meant much as it was to Abraham at this time then the condition of walking with and before God cannot be ignored. It must not be taken with the kid's gloves.

OUTLINES

A. BE DETERMINED

B. PARTNER WITH GOD

A. BE DETERMINED

No one ever overcomes obstacles unless he is determined to avoid distractions. Progress is a good thing. And since Satan is opposed to any good thing happening to you, he will do all he can to stop you from progressing, Jn. 10:10. But then God is always near at hand to help you, Ps. 46:1, 2. However, God is only willing to help those who are determined to avoid distraction in spite of oppositions and obstacles. When Moses cried unto the LORD for help by the Red Sea, God's answer was loud and clear:"Keep moving forward," Ex. 14:15. If the children of Israel had refused to move forward, if they had stopped walking, they would have missed one of the

greatest miracles in their history. When David was to face Goliath, he avoided his brother's distractions, 1 Sam. 17:28-30. He knew that there was a purpose for which God brought him to the battle feed for such a time as this. Elisha was determined to have the double portion of the anointing on Elijah and therefore burnt the bridge of any temptation to go back to his people, 1 Kings 19:19-21. He avoided the distraction of his peer groups and refused to be deterred by his masters' call for him to go back, 2 Kings 2:2-7. Similarly, when Joshua found himself face to face with an insurmountable mountain in the form of the wall of Jericho, the Almighty came to his aid. But the instructions given to him were clear. "Keep walking till the wall falls. And thereafter, keep walking straight ahead." Josh. 6:1-6, 20.Again, when Joshua faced another obstacle in the form of a defeat at Ai, he turned to the ever present Help in time of trouble, Josh 7:1-12. As soon as Joshua discovered the cause of the apparent stagnation and reversal of fortune, he moved quickly, restituted his ways, so that he could continue moving forward, Josh 7:19-25. A sweet victory followed soon after which would never have happened if Joshua had not determined to avoid distraction, Josh 8:18-22.

B. PARTNER WITH GOD

The obstacles that stop you from moving forward are only those you allow to stop you. When you are walking in partnership with God, it is impossible for any obstacle – human, demonic, or otherwise – to stop you; Rom. 8:31. There is no enemy ever so strong as to successfully resist the Almighty. In fact, all that God has to do is just arise and the enemies will scatter or melt, Ps. 68:1-3. After all, God promised you that if you will just obey Him diligently, enemies that rise up against you one way will flee seven ways, Deut. 28:1-7. The same God that helped Elijah to cross his own Jordan is always available to help you too, if you are determined to cross your own Jordan, 2 Kings 2:8, 14. He is an unchangeable LORD. He is forever constant Heb 13:8. Whatever He had done before, He is willing and able to do it again. For example, His promise to Joshua should confirm to you that, with God on our side, no obstacle should or can stop you, Jos. 1:5

The God of Moses was ready to help Joshua. The Red Sea may be different from Jordan but God is the same, Mal. 3:6. Goliath may be different from

a lion and a bear, but the LORD of host is the same, 1 Sam. 17:32-37. All you have to do is have faith in God and every obstacle that tries to hinder you from moving forward will end up becoming a source of testimony, Mark 11:22-23. You will keep walking and every mountain will move out of your way.

Consequently, the decision to stop or keep moving is yours alone to take. Do not ever forget that majority are not always right. Majority may stop walking. You have to fix it in your heart that you will not stop like them or with them, Ps. 57:7. There were 50 old sons of the prophets whereas there was only one Elisha, 2 Kings 2:7. Elisha was right, they were wrong. When Moses sent twelve spies to view the Promised Land, ten came with what looked like "We cannot go forward anymore." They were in the majority. But they were wrong. Caleb and Joshua were in the minority and their report essentially was:"there are obstacles all right but they cannot and should not stop us. Let us keep moving forward." They were right, Num. 14: 6-10. Today, the names – Joshua and Caleb – are household names thousands of years after they died.

Another exciting case was that of Paul the Apostle, Acts 21:8-14. Here we see a man who was determined to reach his goal no matter what. Even when the obstacle to his keeping walking was a prophecy from a reputable prophet, Paul decided to keep walking.

CONCLUSION

The decision to stop before you reach your goal is yours alone. The top is real and nothing can stop anyone who has made up his or her mind to be there. Even when it seems there is no way because of obstacles, they can be stepping stones to greater heights. Remember "Where there is Jesus Christ there is a way because He is the way the truth and the life." So Avoid Distracions!!!

QUESTIONS

1. Why must you be determined to walk with God?
2. What does it take to partner with God?

3. Give examples of situations when majority are wrong?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: I King 6:12 – Failure to walk with God is breaking His covenant.

TUE: Psalm 1:1 – Failure to walk with God is dwelling in the counsel of the ungodly

WED: I John 1:6 – Walking with God is fellowshipping with Him

THU: Matthew 5:14 – No one will be able to cover your glory if you walk with God.

FRI: Proverb 13:20 – God is the wisest man ever and walking with Him will make you wise.

SAT: Isaiah 57:2 – You must walk with God to overcome depression.

SUN: John 11:9 – You can neither stumble nor fall if you walk with God.

LESSON 24
BE CONSISTENT

MEMORY VERSE: *"And let us not be weary in well doing:for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9*

LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

INTRODUCTION

The Christian journey is that of a pilgrimage to the kingdom of God. It requires consistency in our walk with God. The journey could be lonely and the duration is not one that anybody can just predict. It will be a nice thing to go on this journey with God. He will be the one to dictate the terms but you can never regret the total obedience. Enoch, Noah and a host of others did and there was no regret. The situation cannot be different with you.

OUTLINES

A. IMPORTANT HINTS

B. OUTCOME OF CONSISTENCY

A. IMPORTANT HINTS

Falling from grace does not just happen overnight, it takes a gradual process. Nothing just happens, so take note of the following that could serve as important guides

- Learn from the mistakes of others. Those who learn from the mistakes of others avoid the scars that normally form after each fall! 1 Cor. 10:5-12.
- Listen to the advice of elders. Pay attention to the admonitions of those who had walked the way before you because of their experience, Job 32:7.
- Stay away from slippery grounds because those who walk on slippery grounds will fall. To be successful, avoid unholy companies, Ps. 1:1.

Birds of the same feather flock together, Amos 3:3. And anyone who walks too close to a river is likely to end inside it, Prov. 21:16.

- Don't look back, Phil. 3:13-14. You must forget about past successes and past failures but concentrate on the goal to avoid any slip.
- Avoid Overconfidence. No one is too big to fall. One way to be on your feet constantly is to take heed, I Cor. 10:12. King David committed adultery when he stayed at home instead of being in the war front, 2 Sam. 11:1-2.

B. OUTCOME OF CONSISTENCY

i. One major advantage of being consistent with the Lord is that it is never easy to catch up with a man who never stops moving forward, "the journey of a thousand miles starts with but a step." Therefore, if you are consistent, if you keep moving forward, if you keep improving steadily, you will soon leave your competitors behind. Be consistent and you will soon become the envy of those who are not. You will make a mark if you are consistent and persistent.

For example, Isaac started by sowing little in the time of famine, Gen. 26:12. Then as he harvested that year a hundred-fold, he sowed much more. And so he reaped much more. And he persisted in his sowing and reaping, so he prospered more and more, Gen. 26:13. But he did not stop. He was consistent such that within a short space of time, he had gone so far ahead of others that he became the envy of a whole nation, Gen. 26:14. Remember that "slow and steady wins the race."

Remember, the cloud of those who persistently and consistently load up with sowing is sooner full of rain than lather, Eccl. 11:3, 1 Kings 18:41-46. Keep loading your clouds; use every opportunity you have to give and soon the abundant rain will come, Gal. 6:9-10.

ii. On the other hand, some unpleasant things always happen to those who stop moving.

- They usually end as, "Has-been," "Ex-this," "Former champion," "Quenched light," "Ashes," and so on and so forth. For example, there was a man called Demas. Once he was called by Paul, "My fellow-laborer" Phil. 3:4. He was once ranked as high as Luke, the beloved physician, the writer of the gospel of Saint Luke, Col. 4:14. But he stopped walking and ended up with a terrible testimony, 2 Tim. 4:10. He started the journey but ended a disaster!
- It is equally distressing to note that those who will not keep walking always end up as mere observers of those who write history. They always get a "ring-side view" of those who keep moving. An example is the sons of the prophets in the days of Elijah and Elisha. Though they had the revelations that something historic was about to happen, they walked as far as river Jordan and then stopped. While Elisha pressed on with Elijah, these other sons of the prophet got themselves a ring-side view of history in the making, 2 Kings 2:5-8. They saw a major miracle happen, but they were not part of it because they stopped! Much more distressing was the fact that they were so close to a unique miracle, the physical "rapture" of Elijah. And yet saw nothing. Only Elisha, the man who kept walking, saw that miracle of a lifetime happen and partook of it, 2 Kings 2:9-14.
- Another obviously distressing thing about those who stop walking is that they remain stagnant. And as anyone will tell, stagnant waters almost invariable stink. The sons of the prophets were sons of the prophet before the "rapture" of Elijah, they remained sons of the prophet after the event, while Elisha moved on to become "the prophet," and worse still, they all died still sons of the prophet! 2 Kings 2:15a. The evidence that they made no progress in revelation and discernment is aptly illustrated in a near-tragic incident in 2 Kings 4:38-41.

QUESTIONS

1. Why do we have to learn from the mistakes of others?
2. Why must we avoid overconfidence in our walk with God?
3. What are the outcomes of failure to walk with God consistently?

BLESSED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 2 Thessalonians 2:15 – Walking with God involves includes standing firm in His doctrines

TUE: Psalm 118:8 – A successful walk with God involves confidence in Him.

WED: 1 Kings 18:42 – Effective walk with God must involve moving to the mountain top.

THUR: 3 John 3 – You must be prepared to walk in truth.

FRI: Daniel 4:37 – God can humble those who walk in pride.

SAT: 2 Thessalonians 2:17 – Doing good work is part of your walk with God

SUN: Deuteronomy 5:33 – Be consistent with your walk with God if you want to live long.

LESSON 25
BE YE HOLY – PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;" 1 Peter 1:15*

LESSON TEXT – Psalm 15:1-5

INTRODUCTION

There is a time lag between when one is born again and when one is called to eternity. God wants believers to prosper and be in health even as their souls prosper, 3 Jn. 1:2. God expects a standard of living, which is that of holiness, during this time. Holiness is to be set apart, and different. It is therefore to be set apart and different unto God. Viewed from the angle of morals, it means to be pure, sinless, and righteous. Why does God require holiness? What are the benefits of holiness. ? These and many more questions will be answered in this lesson. It is our prayer that the Lord will teach us in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. WHY BELIEVERS MUST BE HOLY

B. BENEFITS OF HOLINESS

A. WHY BELIEVERS MUST BE HOLY

Our God is a holy God and He commands every believer to be perfect in His sight, Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15; Gen 17:1. God desires to use believers as His chosen vessels to reach out to the numerous sinners out there, Matt. 5:14, hence, believers must be holy. Holiness is necessary for a believer to do exploits, Matt. 5:16. Sinners cannot fellowship with a holy God because two cannot walk together unless they be agreed, Amos 3:3. The believer must be holy in order to be able to see the Lord on the last day, Heb. 12:14.

B. BENEFITS OF HOLINESS

A holy believer receives classified information from God, Amos 3:7. God builds a wall of protection around such a believer, Job 1:8-10. He will also have peace with his enemies, Prov. 18:10; 16:7. He will receive divine provision and long life, Prov. 3:1-2; 4:10; 9:10-11. Living holy enables every believer to enjoy God's presence and living ever with God in eternal life

CONCLUSION

The benefits of holiness are inexhaustible since God cannot be separated from His holiness. Living holy must be the yawning of the heart of a true believer, day by day. Do you strive to be holy?

QUESTION

1. Why should believers be holy?
2. Mention some benefits of holiness.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Phil. 4:19 – Do not worry anymore. The Holy God will take care of your daily needs.

TUE: Ps. 1:3 – God's words are yea and amen. He will cause believers to flourish like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

WED: Jer. 29:11 – God's thoughts for His people is to bring every of their expectations to fulfillment.

THUR: Job 1:10- God protects believers from every attack of the wicked. He will protect you too.

FRI: Ps. 68:1 – The Lord of hosts will arise and destroy all your enemies and scatter them.

SAT: Is. 1:19 – Willingness and obedience on the part of people bring goodness their way.

SUN: Is. 1:18 – God's invitation to sinners is on daily basis.

LESSON 26
THE SECOND QUARTER INTERACTIVE SESSION

WELCOME TO THE SECOND INTERACTIVE SESSION

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

LESSON 27
BE YE HOLY – PART 2

MEMORY VERSE: *"...I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." Genesis 17:1b*

LESSON TEXT – Psalm 24:3-10

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson, we considered why believers must be holy and some benefits of holiness. Today, we shall look further into the benefits of holiness and why God does not condone unholy living.

OUTLINES

A. OTHER BENEFITS OF HOLINESS

B. WHY GOD DOES NOT CONDONE UNHOLY LIVING

A. OTHER BENEFITS OF HOLINESS

There are many rewards attached to holiness. One of them is answered prayers – Lk. 1:13; Ps. 34:15-17. The tomorrow of a righteous person is determined by God – Isa. 3:10:Jer. 29:11. A man that fears and obeys God will enjoy divine health – Ex. 15:26. He also enjoys supernatural provisions from the El-Shaddai God – Ps. 92:12. The cup of a holy child will always overflow and as well enjoy overtaking blessings – Ps. 23:5, Dt. 28:1-2. Lastly, he that loves to do that which is right in God's presence will be victorious, promoted and endowed with supernatural anointing – Dt. 28:7; Heb. 1:9.

B. WHY GOD DOES NOT CONDONE UNHOLY LIVING

If two do not agree, they cannot walk together. God cannot condone sin because everything about Him is holy; He is by nature glorious in holiness, Exodus 15:11. His throne is holy, Psalm 47:8. His habitation is holy, Isa. 63:15; Ps. 93:5, with a court that is holy, Isa. 62:9; His words are holy, Jer. 23:9. He should therefore be worshipped in the beauty of holiness, 1 Chr.

16:29. The angels around Him are holy, Rev. 14:19, and holiness is their song, Rev. 4:8; 5:11. Christians are commanded to put on the new man who was created according to God created in righteousness and holiness, Eph. 4:24. Our glorious God lives in holiness. His throne is holy. God did not call us to uncleanness but to holiness 1 Thess. 4:7.

CONCLUSION

A nation that fears God and lives righteously shall be exalted. Disobeying God's instructions will lead to divine rejection and eternal condemnation. 1 Sam. 15:22-23; Rev. 22:14-15; Pro. 14:34.

QUESTIONS

1. Supply the right answers to the question in Psalm 24:3.
2. What are the other benefits of holiness?
3. Why will God not condone ungodliness?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Rev. 3:7, Rev. 4:8 – God expects us to be holy.

TUE: Heb. 12:10 – God chastises to make holy.

WED: Jn. 17:17 – God uses His words to make us holy.

THUR: Ps .99:3 – His name is holy.

FRI. Ps. 47:8 – His throne is holy.

SAT: Is. 57:15 – God dwells in holiness.

SUN: Ps. 145:17 – His ways are holy.

LESSON 28
HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

MEMORY VERSE – *"But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" James 1:22*

LESSON TEXT - James 1:17-27

INTRODUCTION

Our Christian lives begin when God plants his word in our hearts. James tells us that when God's word is planted in our hearts, it has the power to save our souls. The word of God has power. That's something we should never forget. God's word is a powerful word. It has the power to create. God spoke, and the whole universe and everything in it came into being. When we are filled with the Word of God, we have the spiritual power to overcome.

OUTLINES

A. WHO ARE HEARERS ONLY?

B. REASONS FOR BEING HEARER ONLY

C. WHO IS A DOER OF THE WORD?

A. WHO ARE HEARERS ONLY?

- Hearers of the Word look casually into the Scripture and carelessly forget what they read. They are neglectful hearers—similar to those who glance in the mirror but quickly forget what they see. Hebrews 12:5, Psalms 50:22
- The word is not relevant in application to our lives.

- The one fact James emphasizes about "hearers only" is that hearing the word without doing the word is an act of self-deception. Ezekiel 33:31-32
- They are forgetful hearers of the Word. They do not take the time to study their flaws, compare them to God's holy standard, and make the necessary changes in their behavior. Matt. 7:24-27

B. REASONS FOR BEING HEARER ONLY?

- Relativism and Situation Doctrines - Selected portions of the Word are explained to be fine for Jesus' day, but out of touch with 20th century life. Hearers do whatever seems right in their own eyes, Judges 17:6; 21:25.
- Superstitious:In 1 Samuel it is recorded that the Israelites were defeated by the Philistines. The elders of Israel conferred and decided to bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh "so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies" 1 Sam 4:3. When they next went into battle, this time with the ark of the Lord present, Israel was again defeated, and the ark was captured.
- Emotional:The word of God is certainly intended to affect our emotions. Jesus himself told his disciples that he spoke his words to them so that they might not fear but instead have joy. Jn. 14:1-2
- Theoretical: The ones who are "hearers only" after this pattern tend to build a reputation for holding proper theology while leaving behind a trail of divisiveness and damaged relationships. Doers of the Word:Blessed, Jam. 1:22, 25

C. WHO IS A DOER OF THE WORD?

- The doer Looks at the word carefully (intense):The doer looks into the word of God itself, Proverbs 22:17-19
- The doer continues to look at word:James tells us that we should not only look intently but also persist in looking.

- The doer does not forget the word:James further adds, literally, "being not a hearer of forgetfulness." Not being heedless listener. Psa. 119:16
- The doer patterns his or her walk according to His Word. Jam. 2:20.
- The doer keeps God's commandments. 1 Jn. 5:3-4
- The doer of the word is blessed. Jam. 1:25, Psa. 1:1-6

CONCLUSION

It is important to know God's word is most real whether we act like it or not. But in order for it to become real in our lives we have to act like it is so.

QUESTIONS

1. Why are people hearers only?
2. Give a description of hearers only
3. What are the characteristics of a doer of the Word of God?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Jam. 4:11 - A judge of the law is not a doer of it.

TUE: Lk. 6:47 - The doer of the word is wise.

WED: Heb. 10:36 - There are rewards for doers of the word

THUR: Rom. 6:17 - The heart must be loaded before you become a doer of the word

FRI: 1 Jn. 2:17 - Only doers of the word will remain forever.

SAT: Matt. 5:19 - A doer of the word is established in heaven.

SUN: Eze. 18:21 - Second death has no power over the doer of the word.

LESSON 29
SEED TO THE SOWER

MEMORY VERSE - *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 2 Corinthians 9:10*

LESSON TEXT - John 6:9-12

INTRODUCTION

The Bible records that a little boy had the food that Jesus Christ used to feed the multitude. Why a little boy and not an adult? The food in the hands of Jesus Christ was broken and put in the hands of the disciples who distributed to the people. What if the boy did not release his food? What if one of the disciples decided to hold on to what Jesus Christ gave to him? What is the relationship between this story, seed to the sower and bread to the eater? What do I have, seed or bread? It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will teach us today in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

A. THE ONLY MEAL

It may not be easy for the boy to give all his meal, more so when there was no promise or hope of another meal. No one serves God from a comfort zone. Think of what Andrew said and its effect on the boy, John 6:9, yet the boy was not discouraged. The food was in the hands of the lad and not in the hands of an adult probably because only those who have child like spirit will operate the principles of heaven, Lk. 18:17. What the boy had seemed small but what he had was enough for the miracle. We all have something that could affect our lives and change situations around us because the master gave to everybody according to their several abilities, Matt. 25:15. As long as there were empty vessels to fill, the oil of the widow of the son of prophet had oil flowing, 2 Kings 4:1-7. A widow gave her best mites and Jesus said that she gave the best because that was all she had, Mk. 12:41-43. The hand full last meal of the widow of Zarephath and a little oil were all she needed

to get out of famine, 1 Kings 17:11-16. The abundance of rain for Elijah started as a small cloud like a man's hand, 1 Kings 18:44-45. It could be small but the Lord will multiply it if we release it for God's miracle.

B. THE MULTIPLICATION CONTINUED

The disciples allowed themselves to be used in the distribution. As long as they gave what was in their hands they had something left in their hands to give and the multiplication continued. The bread and fishes were food as long as they were not released in the hands of the boy but they became the required seeds that were multiplied when released to the hands of the Lord. There is provision from God for the sower and the eater alike. To the sower rain means seed, to the eater the same rain means bread. The rain does not discriminate i.e. it is the same rain on all, Matt 5:45. The mindset of the sower is to plant (delayed gratification), while the eater has the mindset of consuming the bread (immediate gratification), Isa. 55:10. It is easier to consume than to sow, Pr. 20:4, 13; therefore sowing takes planning and efforts, Pr. 21:5-6. You must beware of shortcuts (i.e. reaping without sowing) Pr 13:11. Do not consume your seed. Changing from a consumer to a sower starts with you thinking, Pr 23:7a. Let God show you, teach you and lead you in sowing. Don't force yourself into things, Pr 23:4-5. The rod of Moses became the rod of God when released for God's use, Ex. 4; 20. The boy, Samuel, released to God became a mighty prophet in Israel. We can add to the list. How do we react to the inadequacies in the lives of other brethren? How do we behave to others when God multiplies us or our lives? Do we behave as if it is by our ability?

CONCLUSION

What are we treating as food instead of seed today. Let us prayerfully release them to the Lord. Whatever we are is of the Lord. Let us give Him all the glory.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the boy among the multitude at this time?
2. Why was the boy not discouraged by Andrew's comment?

3. What will be your priority if the Lord suddenly gives you a major breakthrough?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Gen. 2:19 - God wants everybody to be useful including the first man.

TUE: Ex. 14:26 - The hands of Moses became a blessing as he yielded them to God.

WED: Josh. 8:18 - God used the spear in the hand of Joshua to defeat Ai.

THUR: 1 Sam. 14:45 - Your services will be adequately rewarded by God.

FRI: Ps. 127:1 - We are what we are by the grace of the Lord.

SAT: Ex. 35:5 - Giving willingly to God will be handsomely rewarded.

SUN: Judg. 5: 2 - The Lord wants people to give willingly from the heart.

LESSON 30
SPIRITUAL MATURITY

MEMORY VERSE – *"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God" Hebrews 6:1*

LESSON TEXT - Hebrews 5:11-14

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual maturity involves change from the inside out, brought about by the Spirit of God impacting every area of a person's life. We are developing the habits, skills, and character of a maturing disciple while providing accountability in the context of grace and love.

Immaturity
Maturity

It is clear that the author of Hebrews is frustrated and disappointed with people's ability to understand spiritual truth. Spiritual maturity depends upon in-depth understanding of God's word.

OUTLINES

A. DANGERS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

B. HOW TO GROW INTO MATURITY

C. CHOICES OF MATURITY

A. DANGERS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

- Immaturity is not by age alone. Heb. 5:12
- Immaturity has clear features
    - Inability to learn and retain spiritual things. The Scripture says of these people, Heb. 5:11-12b.

- Inability to instruct others or themselves - Heb. 5:12, Matt. 28:16-20, 2 Tim. 2:1-2.

- Inability to discern good from evil. Heb. 5:14, Eph. 4:14,
  - Some are emotionally gullible, emotionally immature. Eph. 4:14a
  - Some are vulnerable to false prophets and sin. Gal. 1:6
  - Some are totally dependent on their teacher, Heb. 5:12, 1 Cor. 3:1-4.
- Inability to control childish reactions. 1 Cor. 3:3
- Inability to take solid food. Heb. 6:1-3

B. HOW TO GROW INTO MATURITY

Everything the Christian becomes or accomplishes for the kingdom of God is only because of God's grace and power.

- God is ultimately responsible for all spiritual growth. Isa. 61:11, 1 Cor. 3:7-9, 1 Cor. 15:10, Rom. 8:29. While God supplies the resources and enablement for our growth, we must supply the effort.
- There must be constant feeding on the word, 1 Pet. 2:2; Jer. 15:16
- Effort, diligence, and discipline. 2 Pet. 1:1-11, 1 Cor. 9:24-27, Phil. 2:12-13; Ps. 1:1-3
- Growth occurs with frustration, suffering, and sometimes challenges. Phil. 3:10-11, Jam. 1:12
- Spiritual maturity depends upon in-depth understanding of God's word. Consistent intake of spiritual nourishment is the key. Matt. 11:28.

C. CHOICES OF MATURITY

Mature choice	Versus	Immature choices
Teaching others	Rather than	Just being taught
Capacity to feast on the deeper things of God	Rather than	Struggling with the basics
Self evaluation	Rather than	Self criticism
Seeking Unity	Rather than	Disunity
Careful study and observation	Rather than	Lukewarm efforts
Active faith	Rather than	Passive and doubt
Confidence	Rather than	Fear
Distinguishing between sound and unsound doctrine	Rather than	No discrimination between sound and unsound doctrine

CONCLUSION

Maturing Christians should be able to develop the ability to evaluate every major area of our lives from the perspective of God's Word, and reach a decision about whether it is true or false, of God or not, spiritually helpful or harmful.

QUESTIONS

1. What does spiritual maturity involve?
2. How can somebody grow to maturity?

3. What are the choices in maturity?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 1 Sam. 3:7 - Immature Christians don't know when God is talking.

TUE: Isa. 28:9 - Some lessons are meant for only mature Christians

WED: Mk. 4:28 - There are stages in spiritual growth.

THUR: Jn. 16:12 - Babes cannot understand the mind of God.

FRI: 1 Cor. 14:20 - Malice is one of the traits of immaturity.

SAT: 1 Jn. 2:14 - The word of God dwells richly only in mature Christians

SUN: Heb. 5:14 - Babes cannot eat strong meat even in spiritual things.

LESSON 31
THE FLESH OUR ENEMY – PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13*

LESSON TEXT - Romans 8:1-13

INTRODUCTION

The flesh as used in the above Bible passage does not refer to our human bodies, as it were, but to the principle and power of sin i.e. our "old man," our sinful nature. The body of sin is not the human body but our rebellious sin-living nature inherited from Adam. The power and penalty of sin died with Christ on the cross, so we are free – Rom. 6: 6.

OUTLINES

A. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLESH

B. HOW TO OBTAIN VICTORY OVER FLESH

A. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLESH

The flesh is quite contrary to the spirit. The flesh is of the old man while the spirit is of the new man. The attributes of the flesh are enmity with God, inability to please God, profit nothing, spiritually dead, alive to sin – Gal. 5:17; Rom. 8:6-8; Jn. 6:63; Mk. 7:21-23. The flesh manifests the following works:adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, reveling. The Bible makes it clear that those who do these will not inherit the kingdom of God. This tells us that the end of the flesh is death and everlasting punishment – Gal. 5:19-21; Rom .6:23; Matt. 25:46.

2. HOW TO OBTAIN VICTORY OVER FLESH.

Jesus lived a victorious life. He was tempted in every way exactly as we are., "yet was without sin" so He finished the work of redemption. Faith that appropriates (claims, receives) Christ's works releases the Christian from the power and dominion that sin has over him. He is now free to choose to walk in obedience to God – Based on the foundation of this great victory won for us by Christ, the Christian can walk by faith and in obedience to the Holy Spirit to overcome flesh. Despite this victory of Christ, you also have some roles to play in order to appropriate this victory over flesh. They are:

I. Know the victory is already won. Because of Satan's defeat at the cross, only strength is found in a Christian's ignorance – Hos. 4:6.

II. Walk in the Spirit. We are to walk in obedience to His inner promptings day by day – Gal. 5:22-25.

III. Recognize temptation for what it is. Temptation is not sin. It is yielding to temptation that is sin. Understand that God has promised a way of escape for you – 1 Cor. 10:13

IV. Keep away from things that can cause temptation – Ps. 101:3; 1 Tim. 6:9-11.

V. Be aware of Satan's devices – 2 Cor. 2:11; Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:10; Rev. 12:9; 1 Pet. 5:8

VI. Discipline the flesh with regular fasting and prayer.

CONCLUSION

As Christians, we are called to live in victory. Through Christ, this victory is over the flesh – Gal.5:16. You too can live above sin if you are determined. Sin can no longer have dominion over you. Will you submit to the Holy Spirit today?

QUESTIONS

1. What is the flesh?
2. State the characteristics of the flesh.

3. What are the works of the flesh?
4. State how victory could be obtained over the flesh.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Rom. 8:1 – No more condemnation for you because you are in Christ.

TUE: Rom. 6:8 – Now that you are dead with Christ, you shall also live with Him.

WED: Gal. 5:25 – Live and walk in the spirit and you will be victorious.

THU: Jn. 12:24 – Your flesh must die like a corn of wheat for you to bear fruits.

FRI: Rom. 9:8 – If you remain a child of the flesh, you will not be a child of God.

SAT: Isa. 40:6 – Flesh must die because all flesh is grass.

SUN: Gal. 5: 18 – If you allow the Spirit of God to lead you, you will not be under the law.

LESSON 32
THE FLESH OUR ENEMY – PART 2

MEMORY VERSE: *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13*

LESSON TEXT - Romans 8:5-13

INTRODUCTION

Many great men of old and in this generation found it easy to destroy the enemy outside but many at times unable to conquer themselves because of the flesh. They always discover that they continue doing what they do not want to do at times in secret or in the open. Eph.5:12; Rom.7:19-20; Ps.19:12. Today, we want to study access through which the flesh operates, knowing the danger involved and how to deal with it.

OUTLINES

A. THE TOOLS OF THE FLESH

B. DANGERS OF COOPERATING WITH THE FLESH

C. FIGHT THE FLESH NOW

A. THE TOOLS OF THE FLESH

The flesh cooperates with the ears and the eyes which are the gateways of the flesh to the soul in decision-making. Once they accept the offer of the flesh, it manipulates and designs how to execute the sinful act. The heart dictates to other organs of the body on what to do such as hands, tongue and mouth, legs, to achieve the desires of the flesh. Job 29:11; 42:5; Pro. 23:7; Matt. 9:4, 15:19.

B. DANGERS OF COOPERATING WITH THE FLESH

The flesh always desires to go into sin and the reward of sin is death. In fact, the fruit of corruption will be produced in the life of those who agree with the flesh or carnality. They will later discover that the flesh does not profit but brings disappointment. Rom. 7:18-20; Rom.8:13; Jam. 1:15; Ezek.18:20; Gal. 6:7-8; Pro. 22:8; Hos. 8:7.

C. FIGHT THE FLESH NOW

What does God expect you to do with the flesh? Though God is willing to help you overcome the flesh, there are certain things that He expects you to do. These include:

i. Reject the demands of the flesh – Rom.13:14; Gal.5:16.

ii. Mortify the flesh – 1 Pt. 2:11; Gal. 5:16; 1 Cor. 9:27.

iii. Keep the flesh under subjection to the Holy Spirit – Rom. 6:6.

iv. Abstain from its lust – 1 Thess. 4:3-5.

v. Make no provision to satisfy lust – Gal. 5:24.

vi. Flee from danger zone areas – 2 Tim. 2:22.

vii. Amputate any offending members of your body – Matt. 5:29; Jn. 15:5.

CONCLUSION

The flesh is the same as carnality. Never allow the devil to get you through anything you count as small in appearance so work upon yourself.

QUESTIONS

1. Who is the enemy within?
2. What are the tools of the flesh?
3. Why is it dangerous to cooperate with the flesh?
4. What will God expect you to do to enjoy the victory over the flesh?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 2 Cor.12:9 – His grace will lead you to victorious living.

TUE: Rom.8:14 – The Spirit of God leads you to victory over sin.

WED: Ps.37:3-5 – Trust in the Lord and your expectation shall be met.

THU: Heb.13:5 – His abiding presence is the assurance of your victory.

FRI: Job 36:11 – Obedience to His word guarantees your glorious and victorious life.

SAT: Ps.119:9-11 – Regular cleansing by the word keeps you from sin.

SUN: 2 Cor.6:16 – As a temple of the living God, your victory is certain.

LESSON 33
LET US SEEK THE LORD

MEMORY VERSE – *"Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near" Isaiah 55:6*

LESSON TEXT - 2 Chronicles 15: 2-4

INTRODUCTION

To seek means to look for, search for, inquire about, investigate, pursue and strive after. It also means to plead and cry for something to the point of struggling, Matt. 13:45. The Lord is holy and cannot behold sin, if people therefore continue in sinful ways; the Lord will withdraw His presence. The call to seek the Lord is an urgent one. There are times when He may not be available, when? It is our prayer that the Lord will teach us today in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

A. REASONS TO SEEK THE LORD

The Lord will be found if we seek Him, 1 Chr. 28:9; Prov. 8:17; 2 Chr. 15:2-4; The only one you can seek and find is God, not money, position, friendship etc. He will hear and answer if we seek Him, 2 Chr. 7:14. The Lord will give us rest if we seek Him, 2 Chr. 14:7; 2 Chr. 14:10-15. The Lord is the source of blessing, so we should seek Him, Matt. 6:33; Ps. 34:9-10; Prosperity is one of the blessings, 2 Chr. 26:5; 31:21. A good source of righteousness is to seek the Lord, Hos. 10:12

B. HOW TO SEEK HIM

We should seek the Lord with all the heart, Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:13. He should be sought continually, Ps. 105:4; 1 Chr. 16:11. This should be daily, Isa. 58:2. We should seek Him diligently, Heb. 11:6. We should do it with humility, 2 Chr. 7:14. We must realize that seeking the Lord is the source of life, Amos 5:4.

C. WHERE TO FIND THE LORD

The Lord will be found in the place of praise, Ps. 100:3-4; 22:3; Ex. 15:9-11; Rev. 4:9-11; 5:11-12; 7:11-12. He will be found in the place of prayer and fasting, 2 Chr. 20:3; Ezra 8:21; Dan. 9:1-3. You will find the Lord when you strive to live in holiness, 2 Chr. 34:3; Ezra 6:21. The Lord will be found in His word, Ezra 7:10; Ps. 34:4

CONCLUSION

We require the Lord to help us and be on our side when seeking the Lord. We cannot do it by human efforts. Let us call on the Lord today to help us.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to seek?
2. Why do we have to seek the Lord?
3. What other things do people seek other than the Lord?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 2 Chr. 15:2 – The Lord is near to those who seek Him.

TUE: Ps. 34:10 – The Lord has good things in store for those who seek Him.

WED: 1 Chr. 16:11 - Seeking the Lord should be a lifelong experience.

THUR: 1 Chr. 28:9 - Training on how to seek the Lord should start from the home.

FRI: Lk. 11:10 - The only one you will find when you seek is the Lord.

SAT: Hos. 10:12 - A good preparation plus seeking the Lord will result in abundance.

SUN: Amos 5:4 - Seeking the Lord is a key to life.

LESSON 34
MARITAL ABUSE

MEMORY VERSE: *"The LORD trieth the righteous:but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth." Psalms 11:5*

LESSON TEXT: Malachi 2:16-17 , 1 Pet 3:7-12

INTRODUCTION

Marital abuse, whether or not it involves physical violence is a one-sided, oppressive relationship where one spouse uses unacceptable methods to maintain unhealthy control in the home. Domestic Abuse affects people of all races, age, gender or background. Sadly it is an evil that now manifest in Christian home and the church of God. Zephaniah 1:9 "In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit." Abuse in its different manifestations is the most destructive tool that can be used by anyone against another person. Let us examine what the scripture says about DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR MARITAL ABUSE.

OUTLINES

A. PHIYSICAL ABUSE

B. VERBAL ABUSE

C. THE BIBLE CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

A. PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical torturing of a spouse's body in other to subdue and control the partner. Assault or physical abuse is the most obvious form of domestic Violence, and also the most lethal. It is animalistic, physically damaging and emotionally traumatizing, Jer. 22:3, Mal. 2:16-17, Isa. 58:3-4

Physical abuse can include the following:

- slapping, kicking, shoving, choking,
- pinching, forced feeding, pulling hair,
- punching, throwing things, burning (eg with a cigarette),
- beating, strangling, use of weapons (gun, knives, or any object)
- physical restraint - pinning against wall, floor, bed, etc.
- reckless driving, etc.

Assaults often start small, maybe a small shove during an argument, or forcefully grabbing your wrist, but over time, physical abuse (or battering) usually becomes more severe, and more frequent, and can result in the death of the victim.

B. VERBAL ABUSE

Spoken and written words that damage or injure people's feelings, erode their self-esteem and can fill them with fear and uncertainty, as well as hatred, Gen. 30:1-2; Eph. 4:29,31

i. Constant criticism ii. Degrading remarks iii. Lies and Deception, Matt. 5:37

iv. Name calling v. Accusations vi. Threats vii. Railings and Harassments

viii. Abusive words or Cursing

Pro. 4:24; Col. 3:8; Jam. 1:26; 1 Pet 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:1.

Verbal abuse like threats to hit or kill the other person, to leave, or take the children away, or withdraw financial support would result into an emotional trauma. It causes the other partner to live in fear.

C. THE BIBLE CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

a. God hates strikers. The servant of the Lord must not strife, 2 Tim. 2:22; Isa. 58:3-4; Jer. 22:3, Mal. 2:16-17; Psa. 11:5; Zeph. 1:9; Eph. 4:31; Psa. 37:9; Jam. 3:14-16

b. Requirement for leadership 1 Tim. 3:1-4, Tit. 1:7

c. Words spoken can be a form of violence, Eph. 4:29; Jam. 1:19, 20; Pro. 10:6,11; Jam. 3:10; Eph. 5:3-5; Matt. 5:21,22

CONCLUSION

Abuse in its different manifestations is the most destructive tool that can be used by anyone against another person. Most sadly, all these types of abuses deeply scar the emotions of a person and usually greatly alters their perception and their ability to live life to its fullest. But there is hope. His name is Jesus. He has come to heal the broken-hearted.

Psalms 72:14. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence:and precious shall their blood be in his sight

QUESTIONS:

1. Mention five types of abuses in the home?
2. What should one do if you are being abuse by your spouse?
3. What can an abuser do to stop abusive attitudes?
4. What should the church do ?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Jam. 3:10 - A child of God guides his tongue.

TUE: Psa. 37:9 - Marital abuse is evil, refuse to be cut off by God.

WED: Matt. 5:21 - Marital abuse could lead to murder, you must avoid it.

THUR: Mal. 2:16 - You must avoid marital abuse because it is treachery.

FRI: 2 Tim. 2:22 - The heart is the center of marital abuse, watch it.

SAT: Eph. 4:29 - God commands against verbal abuse

SUN: 1 Pet. 2: 1 - Getting out of violent abuse requires your efforts.

LESSON 35
WHEN SINNERS SAY "I DO"

MEMORY VERSE: *"For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband:else were your children unclean; but now are they holy" 1 Corinthians 7:14*

LESSON TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:10-17

INTRODUCTION

Many dedicated Christians are married to unbeliever. Often this is the result of a wife or husband becoming a Christian after the marriage ceremony, while the spouse remains an unbeliever. Other Christians deliberately marry an unbeliever at a time of spiritual backsliding in their lives, but later come back to the Lord and the church. However some were deceived into marrying a pretender. " Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? "2 Corinthians 6:14. Is it possible for a Christian to live with an unbelieving wife or husband and actually enjoy life? How do we fight against resentment? How can we honor our marriage vows? These are some of the questions we'll discuss in this study.

OUTLINES

A. YOU MUST HONOR YOUR VOWS

B. FIND COMMON GROUNDS

C. AVOID BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT

A. YOU MUST HONOR YOUR VOWS

1. Marriage is a sacred covenant that joins two people together as one flesh. Marriage must not be broken irrespective of who, how, where and when it was done. Marriage vow is binding and permanent - Matthew 19:5.

2. The bible encouraged a Christian married to an unbeliever not to initiate separation or divorce but to remain in the marriage 1 Cor 7:10, Matt 19:4-6. 1 Cor 7:12-13
3. When separation or divorce becomes inevitable you cannot remarry. You must remain single and pure. 1 Cor 7:11, Rom 7:2-3
4. Marriage reconciliation with your spouse is the ultimate. 1 Cor 7:11b; 1 Cor 7:15

B. FIND COMMON GROUNDS

1. Discuss and communicate effectively with your spouse. Col 4:6 "Be quick to hear slow to speak and slow to wrath" Jam. 1:19 "Dialog is to love what blood is to the body
2. Speak the truth in Love. Eph 4:15.Reframe from nagging and criticism, 1 Pet. 4:8
3. Look for ways to bring glory to God out of any challenging circumstances, 1 Corinthians 7:17
4. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to enable you to profess Christ in your daily living. 1 John 1:7. Eph 6:18
5. Manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit as written in Gal. 5:22-23.
6. You need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to handle demonic manifestations in the live of your spouse. 1 Cor. 12:7-12
7. Be strong in the Lord and put on the whole amour of God. Eph. 6:10-17
8. Your submission, honor, courteousness and good conversation can win your spouse to Christ. 1 Pet 3:1-7. Your humble attitude will witness more to your spouse than an attitude of rebellion. Eph 5:21

C. AVOID BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT

1. Do not render evil for evil 1 Pet 3:8-11; Lk 6:27-28
2. Learn to forgive and forget. Matt. 18:21-22; Mk 11:25-26; Lk 6:37

3. Remove the beam in your eyes first before the specks in your spouse. Matt:7:1-5.
   There is need to recognize that conflict in marriage may not be due to the fact that a spouse is an unbeliever. Some issues in the marriage may continue even after the mate becomes a Christian.
4. Do not take your spouse sins or irresponsible behaviors on your kids, relations and friends.
5. Appreciate your spouse and you will prosper; belittle and you lose. Lk. 6:31

CONCLUSION

Unbelieving spouses seldom, if ever, attend church and have no interest in God. They do very little in helping to give the children a Christian upbringing. Some seem to delight in giving the believing spouse a rough time in any way possible. The believer must endure his/her spouse making fun of the church, the pastor, and other Christians. Living with an unbeliever requires endurance, grace, and divine strength.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention five ways a Christian can live with an unbeliever as a marriage partner and actually enjoy life?
2. How can a Christian prevent bitterness and resentment against an unbelieving spouse in marriage?
3. List three difficult areas Christian need to honor marriage vows with an unbelieving Spouse?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Gen. 2:24 - The tie between the two should not be broken.

TUE: Prov. 2:17 - The covenant is between the man, the woman and God.

WED: Mal. 2:14 - Avoid treachery with your wife.

THUR: Matt. 19:5 - Don't allow anything to separate what God has joined.

FRI: Rom. 7:2 - God does not allow remarry except for death.

SAT: Eph. 5:28 - The man and woman have one body.

SUN: 1 Cor. 7: 10 - The Lord does not allow divorce.

LESSON 36
PASSING GOD'S TEST

MEMORY VERSE: *"That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" 1 Corinthians 2:5*

LESSON TEXT – Genesis 22: 1 - 2

INTRODUCTION

God put Abraham to some big tests that are hard by any human standard, Gen 12:1-3; 21:8-15, and now this one, Gen. 22:1-2. In today's study it is stated clearly that God tested Abraham. If we are truly children of Abraham, Rom. 4:13; 2 Cor. 11:22; Gal. 3:19; we will be tested because our God is the same yesterday, today and forever, Heb. 13:8. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob Ex. 3:6. He is our God. We shall study reasons why God tests and God's kinds of tests. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will teach us by Himself in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

A. REASONS WHY GOD TESTS

A major reason somebody is tested is to be promoted, so God tests to pronounce His blessings when people pass the test, Gen. 22:16-18; Job 42:10-17. God tests to find out if His fear is in a person, Gen. 22:12. Fear here is to reverence or to love. Another reason God tests is to measure the level of faith. Abraham believed that God can bring Isaac back to life, Heb. 11:19. God tests to prepare us for future; Job 23:10-11; 1 Sam. 17:32-37. It is to test what is in the heart of man, Ps. 17:3; 139:23-24; 2 Chr. 32:31. We can add to the list.

B. KINDS OF TESTS

God will test your credibility which is to show how we can withstand pressure, Gal. 2:11-13; 1 Sam. 16:7. He will test your willingness to submit to God's ordained authority, 1 Sam. 24:2-7; Gal. 2:1-9. There is forgiveness test to know if we will forgive or not, Mk. 11:25-26; Heb. 12:14-15. There

is lordship test to know who takes the prime position in your life, this comes when you lose money, health or what you consider precious; reactions at this time determines lordship, Job 1:1-22; 2:9. God could give time test to determine ability to wait until God's promises are fulfilled, Job 13:15; Gen 40:23; 41:1-14; 42:6. How do you handle situations while serving others or when others are serving you? God tested the level of obedience of Abraham to Him, Gen. 22:1-3; Jn. 2:5. God can test the level of humility, 2 Chr. 32:25-31. There is faith test which is our willingness to hold on to God, 1 Cor. 2:5; 1 Pet. 1:7; Matt. 14:25-31; Jn. 6:5-9.

C. IN CASE OF A FAILURE

There must be genuine repentance in case of failure, Lk. 22:62. The failure should wait and watch out for another opportunity to prove his sincerity, Gen. 37:19-22; 29-30

Resolve to always pass God's test, Job. 23:10; Ps.17:3

CONCLUSION

Can we pray as David prayed that "Examine me O Lord and prove me, try my minds and my heart, Ps. 26:2.

QUESTIONS

1. Give some examples of God's tests to Abraham.
2. Why does God test?
3. What are the kinds of God's tests?
4. What will you do in case of a failure.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ex. 20:20 - A major reason for God's test is to establish His fear in man.

TUE: Deut. 8:2 - God's humility could be established in His test.

WED: Deut. 13:3 - The love for God is revealed when He tests.

THUR: 1 Kg. 3:5 - The place of test is not always hidden.

FRI: Psa. 7:9 - Man's righteousness is established in the place of prayer.

SAT: Psa. 17:3 - Some successes are revealed by the tongue.

SUN: Psa. 66: 10 - Some tests are given to refine like silver in the fire.

LESSON 37
INTEGRITY – PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" John 1:47*

LESSON TEXT: 1 Samuel 12:2-3

INTRODUCTION

Integrity is to be upright in character. This include uncompromising adherence to moral and ethical principles. It is to be honest and have singleness of purpose. Only people of integrity character are acceptable to the lord, Ps. 15: 1-5; 24: 4. God is exactly what He says He is. This makes integrity to be of the many attributes of God. He introduced Himself as 'I AM WHO I AM,' Ex. 3: 14. He is very constant, the same yesterday, today and forever Heb. 13: 8. Children of God cannot afford to go below this level of integrity.

OUTLINES

A. THE NEED FOR INTEGRITY

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF A MAN OF INTEGRITY

A. THE NEED FOR INTEGRITY

Integrity is required in relationships. Trust is often earned and this can be built over time. We are in spiritual warfare and nobody wants to go to war with people who have "chameleon" characters, 2 Cor. 11:14. One of the conditions to enter into the kingdom of God is integrity because except a man's righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven, Matt. 5:20; Ps. 15:1-4; 25:3-4; Heb. 12:2; 13:8.

Integrity is a defense, Gen 20:1-8, what saved Abimelech king of Gerar was the integrity of his heart. Integrity is a guide, Pro. 11:3; 20:7

B. CHARACTERISTIC OF A MAN OF INTEGRITY

Integrity is to be in-depth in character, Phil. 4:8. It is to say what you mean and mean what you say, Matt. 5:37. He does not break oaths and pledges – Num. 30:1-2. A man of integrity does not deceive others, Ps. 101:7; Ps. 32:2; Zech. 8:16-17. He does not have dishonest scales, Proverbs 16:11; Hosea 12:7. He is to show example of good work, Titus 2:7. A man of integrity serves as both salt and light of the world, Matt. 5:13-14. He does not offer or take bribe, 2 Sam. 18:12; 1 Kings 13:8. He is conscious of the fact that God judges integrity, Ps. 7:8.

CONCLUSION

Integrity shows in the level of our faithfulness in whatever is committed to our hands. The consistency of whatever we say in accordance to our actions will go a long way to show us as people of integrity.

QUESTIONS

1. How will you define integrity?
2. Why is integrity necessary?
3. What are the characteristic of a man of integrity?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 2 Sam. 18:12 - You cannot afford to lose your integrity for money.

TUE: Gen. 14:23 - You must be satisfied with what you have.

WED: Num. 16:15 - God knows how far you have gone to compromise your integrity.

THUR: 1 Sam. 12:4 - People must be able to justify your character.

FRI: 1 Kg. 13:8 - Some lack integrity because they have price and can be bought.

SAT: 2 Kg. 12:15 - Can people commit issues of value in your care?

SUN: Neh. 5: 15 - Integrity is synonymous with the fear of the Lord.

LESSON 38
INTEGRITY - PART 2

MEMORY VERSE – *"But he who glories, let him glory in the LORD" Corinthians 2 10:17*

LESSON TEXT – Job 27:4-6

INTRODUCTION

We examined the characteristics and the need for a man of integrity in the first part of this topic. We discovered that people lack integrity because they give preference to flesh than to God. They want to be wealthy at all costs irrespective of God's involvement or not. We will consider how to acquire integrity and study examples of some men who have integrity in the Bible. It is our prayers that our lives will be positively imparted and made ready for the kingdom of God through this lesson in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINE

A. HOW TO ACQUIRE INTEGRITY

B. EXAMPLES OF MEN OF INTEGRITY

A. HOW TO ACQUIRE INTEGRITY

A disciple is a follower of another person, therefore follow the example of Jesus Christ, not seeking honor from man, Jn. 5:41; 2 Cor. 10:17; Matt. 22:16. Be patiently consistent bearing in mind that it takes time to build character, 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 15:31; Col. 3:1-5. Never settle for compromise, Matt. 5:48; Jam. 1:17; Deut. 18:13; Prov. 11:1-3. Abstain from all appearances of evil, 1 Thess. 5:22, because what is not too bad is first of all bad. Fear God, Neh. 5:15; Gen. 39:7-13. Make conscious efforts not to lie to anyone, Col. 3:9-10

B. EXAMPLES OF MEN OF INTEGRITY

The following are some examples of men of integrity in the Bible:

- Samuel – 1 Sam. 12:3-5
- Job – Job 2:3, 9-10; 27:4-6; 29:14; 31:1-40
- Nathaniel – John 1:47
- Joseph – Gen. 39:4, 22-23; 50:25
- Paul – Gal. 2:20; Phil 4:8
- Jesus Christ – Luke 4:40, 52; 1 Pet. 2:21

CONCLUSION

Let us pray for an enabling grace to live a life that pleases the Lord, a life of integrity.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between preference to flesh over God?
2. How can one acquire integrity?
3. Name some examples of men of integrity.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ex. 18:21 - Only men of integrity can lead God's people.

TUE: Ps. 41:12 - It is not by power nor by might but by the Spirit of the Lord.

WED: Pro. 11:3 - Integrity is a defense, don't lose yours.

THUR: Prov. 20:7 - The benefits of integrity lasts unto generations.

FRI: 1 Pet. 2:21 - Jesus Christ is our example of integrity, the choice is yours.

SAT: Col. 3:2 - Your choice of emphasis will determine your integrity.

SUN: Gen. 39:8 - Your destiny is a product of your choice.

LESSON 39
THE SECOND QUARTER INTERACTIVE SESSION

WELCOME TO THE SECOND INTERACTIVE SESSION

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

LESSON 40
ANXIETY

MEMORY VERSE - *"Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. Let your request be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6*

LESSON TEXT - Matthew 6:25-34

INTRODUCTION

Anxiety is the feeling of worry. It is a nervous disorder characterized by a state of excessive uneasiness and apprehension or panic attack. People worry about most situations, those they have control and the ones they cannot control. They weep over what they can control rather than seek for solutions, 1 Sam. 30: 1-6. Resources for solution were present with King David but he joined others to weep until the people decided to kill him. People worry about past, present and future. What are some common causes of anxiety? What are the results and how can we overcome them? These and many questions will be answered in this lesson. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will teach us by Himself in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. CAUSES OF ANXIETY

B. HOW TO OVERCOME ANXIETY

A. CAUSES OF ANXIETY

People get burdened unnecessarily and some of the causes include the fact that they lack understanding. There are lots of worries over children, Lk. 2:48-50. People lack the understanding that children are gifts from the Lord, Ps. 127:3, and that He is able to take care of these children. Another cause of worry is persecution, Lk. 12:11-12. Another cause of anxiety concerns earthly possessions, Lk. 12:22-23; Matt. 6:25-26. There are people who worry about their beauty, look and even stature, Matt. 6:27; Lk. 12:25.

A major cause of anxiety concerns cares of the world, Lk. 8:11-15; 21:34. House hold services are other causes of anxiety, Lk. 10:40-41. Another source of worry concerns availability or not of riches, Ps. 39:6.

B. HOW TO OVERCOME ANXIETY

A major solution to anxiety is to always consider God's assurances, Isa. 43:2; Heb. 13:5; Deut. 20:1. Consider God's provisions, Matt. 6:28-34. We should learn to live one day at a time, Matt. 6:34; remember the Lord's prayer in Matt. 6:11. Spend time to consider nature and remember that if God will take care of them, He cannot fail over you, Matt. 6:26-30. Pray for everything, Phil. 4:6-7. Another way to overcome anxiety is to be satisfied with whatever you have, Prov. 15:16; Ecc. 4:6. Consider that the riches of the world is vanity, Ecc. 2:26; and that all about riches and wealth end in this world except the one that is sown to the kingdom of God, Heb. 9:27; Don't worry when you cannot understand everything, Pro. 20:24. Make God your focus, Matt. 6:33. Remember that there is nothing too hard for God, Jer. 32:27; 32:17, Lk. 1:37. If God can bring water from a rock, Ex. 17:6. He made the barren to conceive. Gen 21:1-2, Gen 25:21, Jud 13:2-5, 1 Sam 1:50; 1:20, why will your situation be too hard for Him? Why do you now think that it is anxiety that will bring a solution to your problems, either real or perceived?

CONCLUSION

Anxiety could cause lead to some medical problems. We should remember that our body is the temple of the most high God. To be anxious about anything is saying that God has no power to fix it. He said we should cast all our cares on Him, 1 Pet 5:7. He can fix it. We actually cannot do anything without Him. Jn. 15:5. Trust Him, let your faith rest in Him.

QUESTIONS

1. Is it wrong to plan for tomorrow?
2. How can we have adequate supplies of our needs?
3. What does it mean to live one day at a time?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 1 Pet 5:7 – Cast all your cares upon Him

TUE: Phil. 4:6 – Be anxious for nothing

WED: Lk. 12:29 – Take no thought for your life

Thu:Lk. 12:30 – Maintain your identity as a child of God

FRI: Jn. 16:33 – He loves you

SAT: Lk. 1:37 – He can do all things

SUN: Lk. 16: 20 – Lay treasures in Heaven

LESSON 41
BETRAYAL

MEMORY VERSE – *"So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him" Matthew 26:16*

LESSON TEXT – Matthew 26:14-16

INTRODUCTION

Betrayal is being a traitor or to be disloyal. It is to disclose secret information. What is the cord that binds people together in relationship? Who betrays and how can the cord be restored if there is betrayal? These and many more questions will be answered in this lesson. It is our prayer that the Lord will teach us in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. AN IMPORTANT CORD OF RELATIONSHIP

B. WHY BETRAYAL IS POSSIBLE

A. AN IMPORTANT CORD OF RELATIONSHIP

The major cord that binds people together in any relationship, marital, personal or interpersonal is TRUST. In Judges 16:15-19, we can see an example of marital trust in Samson. The Bible says that he told her his entire mind. We can discuss the kind of trust that made Jacob to serve Laban for seven years for Rachel, Gen. 29:25. What of the trust between Jesus Christ and Judas Iscariot to an extent that he could be betrayed with a kiss, Matt. 26:14-16. We can add to this list.

B. WHY BETRAYAL IS POSSIBLE

Those who betray are often friends and those who are close – Ps. 55:12, 20; 41:9. Judas was trained to be an apostle by Christ Himself. He heard most, if not all, of the teachings of Christ. He was one of those empowered and sent out in twos, Mk. 6:7. They are people who are intimate even to the point

of eating together, Matt. 26:21, 49; Mk. 14:18; Micah 7:5. There is always emotional attachment, Judg. 14:17-18. There is always an expectation of a personal gain, Jn. 12:6; Matt. 26:9. They always seek for opportunities to betray, Matt. 26:16. Betrayal is treachery, Judg. 16:19; 1 Sam. 18:17; 2 Sam. 13:28.

CONCLUSION

Discuss how loyalty can be restored in view of the fact that trust is earned and not just given. A lot of prayer is required to be restored. In what ways have we been disloyal to the Lord? Let us talk to Him today.

QUESTION

1. What is an important bond that binds people together in relationship?
2. Give examples of people who betrayed another.
3. Why would people who are close betray friends?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Gen. 3:6 – A wrong judgment contributes intensely to betrayal in relationship

TUE: Gen. 3:9 – Betrayal leads to loss of good relationship.

WED: Gen. 29:25 – Betrayal often lead to a break in trust.

THUR: Matt. 26:21 – God knows the heart and future of a betrayer.

FRI: 1 Sam. 18:17 – Betrayal is treachery.

SAT: Matt. 26:9 – Betrayal is a product of a wrong content of the heart.

SUN: Judg. 14:17 – Betrayal goes with lies and deceits.

LESSON 42
COVENANT

MEMORY VERSE: *"And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly." Genesis 17:2*

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 17:1 – 10

INTRODUCTION

Our God is a great God. He is the covenant keeping God. If He has promised, He would do it. His name is the EI-Shaddai. In Genesis 17: 2, God told Abraham, "And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly." What is the implication of this statement? It shows that God wants to bless you. He can on His own initiate an agreement.

OUTLINES

A. DEFINITION AND EXAMPLES

B. THE NEW COVENANT

A. DEFINITION AND EXAMPLES

A covenant is a legal disposition. It is a solemn promise made binding by an oath, which may be either verbal or symbolic. It is a solemn agreement binding on all parties. Where one of the parties is infinitely superior to the other, as in a covenant between God and man, God's covenant assumes the nature of a promise, Isa. 59:21; Jer. 31:33,34; Gal. 3:15-18. In the Bible, God made mutual promises with the Israelites. God wanted to establish a deep relationship with His people so that they could live in a way that glorified Him. God covenanted with Noah, Abraham, and David, Gen. 9:8, 9; 17:4, 5; Ps. 89:3, 4

God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, and David, Gen. 9:8-11; Gen. 17:4, 5; Ps. 89:3, 4.

- Noahic Covenant:Gen 6:18; Gen. 9:8-17. Contains promises from God and put obligations on Noah, a prelude to later covenants.
- Abrahamic Covenant:Gen. 17:7-21; Gen. 17:1. The promise that Abraham would have many descendants, and that those descendants would inherit the "promised land" of Canaan.
- The Sinai or Mosaic Covenant:Ex. 19:5-6; Ex. 24:7-10; Ex. 31:18.
- Palestinian Covenant:Lev. 26:1-; Deut. 11:8-32.
- Davidic Covenant:2 Sam. 23:5.

B. THE NEW COVENANT

Jesus initiated a new covenant between us and God, Jer. 31:31-34. Under this new covenant, Jesus died in place of sinners, Heb. 9:23-28; John 1:29; Matt. 26:26-30. His blood would truly remove the sins of all who place their faith in Him, 1 Jn. 1:9. It is a better covenant, Heb. 8:6-13. It is a covenant of hope, Heb 7:18-19 and it is an everlasting one, Heb. 13:20. It is a covenant of eternal remittance, Gal. 3:15-18; Heb. 9:15.

CONCLUSION

The new and better way is the covenant of grace, that is, Christ's offer to forgive our sins and bring us to God through His sacrificial death. It is new in application because it is written in our hearts and minds. It offers a new way to forgiveness through faith. Have you entered into this new covenant and started walking in the better way?

QUESTIONS

1. What is a covenant?
2. Mention some important covenants in the Bible.
3. What is the new covenant?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Heb. 8:9 – Stay within the covenant for God to regard you.

TUES: Heb. 10:16 – God's covenant is in our minds and hearts.

WED: Heb.12:24 – Jesus Christ is the mediator of the new covenant.

THUR: Josh. 7:21 – You must make a covenant with your eyes not to covet.

FRI: 1 Kgs. 6:12 – Failure to walk with God is breaking His covenant.

SAT: Jer. 35:17-19 – God will keep His covenant with you and your descendants.

SUN: Acts 3: 25 – The blessings of Abraham, by God's covenant, is also ours.

LESSON 43
GODLY COUNSEL

MEMORY VERSE: 2 CHRONICLES 22:3

LESSON TEXT – Job 2:9 - 10

INTRODUCTION

People say a lot of things around us and some of the talks could be careless or foolish. They could come as casual talks or counsel. The talks could come from casual friends or even very close relations 2 Chr. 22:3. The wife of Job gave birth to ten children and was married for several years. Consider her counsel and her husband's response. Consider how people who are close could give counsels that would affect lives positively or otherwise, 2 Chr. 10:10 - 11

A. NO EXCUSE

Note the word "Then" that starts verse 9. Remember that Job had lost all and was not in the best position humanly speaking, 'Then.....'

Wealth was gone, children (sons and daughters) were dead, and Job was afflicted with boils. What else is left?

- Why did his wife give her comments?
- Did Job have any reason against God?
- Discuss conditions under which people give foolish counsels. Can there be reasons to justify them?
- What is the implication of Job's response?

B. EXAMPLES OF FOOLISH COUNSELS

It is not always good to always think that it is all over. It could mean that our trust and hope in God is over. Consider the result of the spies, Num. 13:30 – 14:1-2. Consider Ex. 14:11-12; Num. 20:4-5. Note the result in Num. 26:65.

Discuss some examples of foolish talks,

- To sin – 2 Sam. 13:5;
- For popularity – 2 Sam. 16:21
- Vengeance – 1 Sam 24:4; Est. 5:14
- Envy – Est. 3:9; Dan 6:8
- Add to the list
- Give some examples of today's foolish talk, "Is death not better ....."

C. OUR REACTION

Our reaction should be to count our blessings, name them one by one and appreciate God in all situations, 1 Thess. 5:18. Think of God's mercies that cannot be seen but with eternal values, 2 Cor. 4:15-18. Name some of them

Salvation which is by grace

Provisions in Christ Jesus, Eph. 1:3

His promise to take you home to be with Him forever, Jn. 14:1-3

The unseen battles that He fights

Let us add to the list

CONCLUSION

The devil can use our flesh, friends or even people close to us with foolish talks. The devil can drive us into foolish conclusion and even foolish actions. You must remember that your redeemer lives, Job 19: 25, and that weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning, Ps. 30: 5

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of people will influence your lives with their opinions or counsels?
2. Give some examples of wrong counsels
3. What should be our reactions when things seem not to be working well?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Psa. 1:1 - A way out of wrong counsel is to avoid to listen to any of it.

TUE: 1 Sam. 24:4 - Refuse to be persuaded by evil counsels

WED: 2 Sam. 13:5 - Beware of your friends because of their counsels.

THUR: Esther 5:4 - Beware of gallows counsel so that you don't become a victim.

FRI: 1 Kg. 12:28 - Don't accept any counsel to serve just any god.

SAT: Dan. 6:8 - No weapon formed against you shall prosper

SUN: Mk. 6: 24 - Refuse to give the counsel of John the Baptist's head

LESSON 44
HOSPITALITY

MEMORY VERSE: *"Be hospitable to one another without grumbling" 1 Peter 4:9-10*

LESSON TEXT - 2 kings 4:8-18

INTRODUCTION

Hospitality is the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guest, visitors, or strangers. To be hospitable is to offer a home away from home to meet needs and offer rest to those in need. Paul urged the Corinthian brethren to shelter and support Epaphroditus one of the brothers in Christ during his visit to the church in Corinth. Phil 2: 28-30. May the Lord help us to make our home/church a happy welcome to guest and visitors in Jesus name.

OUTLINES

A. WHY YOU SHOULD BE HOSPITABLE

B. CHRIST WAS ENTERTAINED

C. EXAMPLES OF HOSPITALITY AND RESULTS

A. WHY YOU SHOULD BE HOSPITABLE

The first important reason why you should be hospitable is because God commands it, Deut 10:19, Rom 12:13; 15:25-27. It is a key to miracles, Gen 18:2-14; 2 Kg 4:8-18. You can entertain angels unknowingly when you are hospitable, Heb 13:2. Sinner could equally give their lives to Christ when you are hospitable, Lk. 7:36-39; 1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 9:1

B. CHRIST WAS ENTERTAINED IN VARIOUS HOMES

Several people entertained Jesus Christ at different times and different locations. Jesus was entertained in the house of Matthew, Mt 9:10. He was in the house of Simon the leper, Mk 9:10. Jesus was in the house of a Pharisee who requested for His to eat with Him, Lk. 7:36. Jesus was entertained by Martha and Mary in the house, Lk 10:38. He was also in the house of Zacchaeus, Lk 19:5-7

C. INSTANCES OF HOSPITALITY

The following are some instances of hospitality in the Bible

- Abraham's house, Gen 18:4
- Lot's house, Gen 19:2
- Laban's house, Gen 24:31
- Shunammites woman 2 Kg 4:8-18
- Dorcas, Acts 9:36-39
- Lydia, Act 16:15
- Keeper of Prison, Acts 16:34
- Phebe, Rom. 16:1-2
- Churches of Macedonia, 2 Cor. 8:1-4

CONCLUSION

Hospitality is a gift that can open doors to our needs and miracles. God wants us to be a generous and a true giver. He is always doing something in return to our gracious hospitality. When we encounter brethren and men of God who can benefit from our support, we should not hesitate to offer hospitality Just because we are too tired or too busy or not wealthy enough to entertain .

QUESTIONS

1. Why should you be hospitable?

2. Give examples of those who entertained Jesus Christ
3. Mention some instances of hospitality

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ex. 2:20 - You should train your children by example in hospitality.

TUE: Neh. 5:17 - Your hospitality should not be limited.

WED: Job 31:32 - No group should be left out in hospitality

THUR: Acts 21:8 - You must be hospitable even as a man of God

FRI: Acts 28:7 - Your actions are recorded by both heaven and man.

SAT: Acts 28:2 - Hospitality should include families and nations

SUN: Lk. 14: 1 - Unexpected eyes are watching your level of hospitality

LESSON 45
DESTINY DESTROYERS - PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *"And the LORD answered me, and said, write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it" Habakkuk 2:2.*

LESSON TEXT - 1 Kings 11:1-11

INTRODUCTION

God has made it clear through the scriptures that He did not create us just for the fun of it. He has a thought towards us and the thought is a good one to give us an expected end, Jer. 29: 11 He has a purpose for our lives. He is willing to fulfill it if we cooperate with Him. However, most people end up unfulfilled because of certain destiny destroyers. We shall consider some of it today. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will teach us in Jesus Name. Amen.

OUTLINES

A. DESTINY DEFINED

B. SOME DESTINY DESTROYERS

A. DESTINY DEFINED

It is God's purpose for a man's life. It is a divinely pre-planned destination, Jer. 29:11. It is the totality of God's counsel for a person and what God has decided concerning him even before he was conceived, Isa. 25:1; 46:8-11; 49:1; Jer. 1:5; Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 2:8. God already destined Abraham for greatness, Gen. 18:16-19. He calls the generation of man from the beginning, Isa. 41:4. Jesus Christ was destined for crucifixion, Jn. 7:30, and Jesus knew the hour of the crucifixion, Jn. 13:1. The plan of God for man is a good one. The end he has for our lives is His expected end and as good as it is, at several points in life, it is still subject to your attitude and agreement with God, Jn. 15:5. The birth of Samson was divine by special parents and the plan of God for his life was perfect but he did not achieve his destiny.

B. SOME DESTINY DESTROYERS

1. PURSUIT OF VANITY

If we consider the testimonies of David and Solomon, we will note that one was an affirmation of success while the other was borne out of regrets - Ps. 23:1; Eccl. 12:8. Solomon pursued so much of vanity until he became a complete backslider. The privileges of wealth and lack of self-control ruined his destiny – Eccl. 2:10-11; 1 Kg 11:1-10.

2. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

Lack of knowledge is a destiny destroyer – Hos. 4:6; Pro. 29:18. We need to seek to know God's mind concerning our purpose on earth – Amos 3:7; Pro. 25:2; Matt. 7:7-8; Dan. 2:22. We also cannot know the mind of God without the Holy Spirit – I Cor. 2:10; Rom. 8:26-27. If we are aware of our destiny, we shall be free, focused and fulfilled like some in the Bible – Jn. 8:32; Isa. 6:1-9; Heb. 11:13.

3. LACK OF FAITH

Lack of faith is also a destiny destroyer, Heb. 4:2; 1 Tim. 1:19. If we have faith, we will take the right steps, Heb. 11:1; Isa. 28:16; Jam. 2:18; Luke 17:12-14. People who had faith in the Bible possessed their possessions, Josh. 14:12; 1 Sam. 17:37; Heb. 11:33-38. Unbelief ends in failure and destruction, Num. 14:22-24; Matt. 17:19-20.

CONCLUSION

Seek the face of God, lift up your faith unto God and run with the vision which the Lord will give to you. Always remember that God will always be there to back you up and your assignment on earth will be easy.

QUESTIONS

1. How can you prove from the scriptures that God has a purpose for your life?
2. What will the knowledge of your destiny do for you?
3. What is the consequence of unbelief?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ps. 73:26 - God is your portion forever.

TUE: Jer. 29:11 - God has a purpose for your life.

WED: John 15:5 - Without Him you can do nothing

THUR: 2 Pet. 1:5 - You need knowledge

FRI: Pro. 8:10 - The value of knowledge is unquantifiable

SAT: Rom. 10:17 - To increase your faith you need the constant food of the word of God.

SUN: Heb.: 11: 6 – Without faith, you cannot please God.

LESSON 46
DESTINY DESTROYERS - PART 2

MEMORY VERSE: *"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." Psalm 24:4*

LESSON TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:1-7

INTRODUCTION

We were able to discover in our last lesson that God has a purpose for our lives and that many do not fulfill their purpose because of destiny destroyers like lack of knowledge and lack of faith. Today, we shall study more destiny destroyers with a view to avoiding them in our lives. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will teach us in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUTLINES

A. SIN SINKS

B. PRAYER BRINGS POWER

C. PRIDE GOES BEFORE A FALL.

A. SIN SINKS

A man who is living in sin cannot fulfill his destiny or attain eternal destination which God has promised. Sin is the transgression of the Law and it is capable of enslaving and destroying- 1 John 3:4; Rom. 6:16-18; Romans 6:23. Sins not confessed and forsaken are dangerous because they provoke God to anger- 1 Kings 16:42-4; Psalm 7:11. We need to obey the scriptures if we want to fulfill our destiny, Joshua 1:8. The destiny of Samson was ruined by sin, Judg. 16:6-18.

B. PRAYER BRINGS POWER

Many Christians do not pray enough. They hate vigils and rather seek for others to pray and see visions for them. They, therefore, fall into the hands of false prophets who scuttle their destinies. Jesus enjoins us to pray, Luke 18:1. He also prayed severally, showing us His example, Lk. 6:12-13. Jesus prayed before taking decisions in life, Jn. 6:15; and before important events so that the enemy will not take advantage against His destiny, Lk. 22:41-44; Matt.26:38-42.

C. PRIDE GOES BEFORE A FALL

Pride is excessive self-esteem. It is when you are filled with an exciting sense of credit due to yourself. It brings a feeling that one is better than others. It is dangerous. This is because God is the only One who can make you fulfill destiny, Rom. 9:15-16; and He resists the proud, Psalms 138:6, James 4:6. Pride is a sin and it leads to loss and destruction – Dan.4:28-33, Proverbs 21:4; 16:18; 2 Chronicles 26:16; Proverbs 29:23.

CONCLUSION

If you make up your mind to live holy, be prayerful and humble, the Lord will attend to you with grace. Seek His face today and put into practice these things starting with this week and you will see God manifesting in your situation.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is sin a sinker?
2. Recount five examples of the times that Jesus prayed.
3. What is the end of pride?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Proverbs 8:13 - God hates pride.

TUE: Daniel 4:37 - The surest way to shame is via pride.

WED: Ephesians 6:18 - Pray always with thanksgiving.

THUR: James 5:16 - Prayer plus righteousness is express access to the throne of God.

FRI: Psalm 66:18 - Stay out of sin for your prayers to be answered.

SAT: Job 2:10 - Watch your tongue so you don't get into trouble.

SUN: Isaiah 55: 7 - God is willing to pardon the repentant.

LESSON 47
DESTINY DESTROYERS – PART 3

MEMORY VERSE: *"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men," Proverbs 22:29.*

LESSON TEXT - Proverbs 6:4-11

INTRODUCTION

In our last lesson, we discussed on the need to avoid sin, prayerlessness and pride. These are destiny destroyers that are capable of hindering the fulfillment of one's destiny. There are, however, some more which we shall be discussing today. May the Holy Spirit illuminate our hearts in Jesus Name. Amen.

OUTLINES

A. LAZINESS

B. DESIRE FOR PLEASURE

C. DEMONIC ATTACKS

A. LAZINESS

To be lazy is to be idle and be averse to labor, not wanting to do anything. It is not the nature of God. It is a destroyer of destiny, John 5:17; John 9:4. Jesus even defied hunger to fulfill an assignment, John 4:31-34. The Bible emphasizes the importance of hard work. God expects us to be full of useful activities, Proverbs 18:9, 16, 22:29; Titus 2:14; Romans 12:11.

B. DESIRE FOR PLEASURE

Pleasure refers to the gratification of the senses or the mind. It is giving to our flesh not only what it demands but also what it desires and lusts after. It is a destiny destroyer. Pleasure seekers cannot muster self-discipline and self-denial which they need to fulfill their destinies – 1 Tim. 5:6. The desire

for pleasure may manifest in our appetite, Exodus 16:3; Num. 11:4-6; Phil. 3:19. It is also related to worldliness which God has warned us to avoid - 1 John 2:15-17. Self-denial is needed for a man to fulfill his destiny – Matt. 16:24; Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor.9:27.

C. DEMONIC ATTACKS

Demonic operations may affect the fulfillment of destiny. There are demons assigned by the devil over nations, cities, territories, families and individuals - Ephesians 6:12; Daniel 10:12-13. These demons are consulted by magicians, astrologers, star-gazers, necromancers, monthly prognosticators and certain false prophets - Isaiah 47:13; Daniel 2:2; Genesis 41:24. Their activities put people into bondage and captivity, bring curses upon them, exchange their destinies and blessings with fake ones and deceive them in order to steal their glory, kill and destroy them - John 10:10; Exodus 15:9; Jeremiah 30:16.

CONCLUSION

It is time to rise up against every demonic operation in your life. Hold on to the promises of God and pray through to your deliverance.

QUESTIONS

1. Prove from the scriptures that laziness is not the nature of God.
2. What does it require to follow Jesus?
3. Mention two verses of the Bible that you can use to pray against demonic attacks.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Proverbs 12:24 - Laziness will lead to slavery.

TUE: Proverbs 18:9 - The lazy man is wasting the resources which God deposited in his life.

WED: 2 Timothy 3:4 - Pleasure seekers cannot love God.

THUR: 1 Timothy 5:6 - Pleasure seekers are dead even while still alive.

FRI: Psalm 91:5 - In Jesus you are safe from all attacks.

SAT: Psalm 23:4 - God's presence is needed to be safe from all evil.

SUN: Isaiah 41: 11 - God's promises are sure. Hold on to them.

LESSON 48
PROCRASTINATION

MEMORY VERSE: *'Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth" Proverbs 27:1*

LESSON TEXT: Luke 9:59- 62

INTRODUCTION

To procrastinate is to put off a required action until a future time, to defer or to postpone. Life is full of decisions and time is often of essence in these decisions. Procrastination is therefore a character flaw that affects millions of people in every walk of life. While it is regarded as normal for people to procrastinate, it can become a problem that can hinder normal life functioning. It cuts across all area of life, from accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to attending to assignments by students and many other areas. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will teach us as we study in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. CAUSES OF PROCRASTINATION

B. EFFECTS OF PROCRASTINATION

C. SOLUTION TO PROCRASTINATION

A. CAUSES OF PROCRASTINATION

People procrastinate because of their personal convenience, Acts 24:25. This is a major reason why people don't give their lives to God immediately they hear the word. Procrastination happens when people are sluggish and show spiritless attitude to the things of God, 2 Chr. 24:4-5, One other cause of procrastination is laziness, Pro. 26:13-16; 10:4. When people allow worldly entanglement it could lead to procrastination, Gen. 19:16; Matt. 19:22. Consideration of family pressured at the expense of God's business could lead to

procrastination of God's business, Matt. 8:21; Lk. 9:59-62. Elisha ran after Elijah immediately at the expense of family business, 1 Kings 19:20-21. Environmental distraction is another cause of procrastination, Ecc. 11:4. We can add to this list.

B. EFFECTS OF PROCRASTINATION

One of the effects of procrastination is loss of fellowship and opportunities, Matt. 25:11-12; Lk. 13:24-25. Procrastination could cause one to be caught off guard and met unprepared, Matt. 24:48-51. We could lose souls if we procrastinate in witnessing, Jer. 8:20.

C. SOLUTION TO PROCRASTINATION

Proper planning and making a constant reminder is a solution to procrastination, Lk. 14:28. Priorities should be set right, Ecc. 3:1; Isa. 56:12; Acts 24:25. Self discipline could help against procrastination. This includes the areas of eating, talking, watching TV, movies, use of telephone and other areas of distraction. It is always better to focus on today and not tomorrow, Matt. 6:25-31. Always remember that you are here on earth temporarily and let this guide you in your commitment to the work of God, Hab. 2:3; Matt. 24:48-51.

CONCULSION

You may procrastinate but time does not; it keeps on moving, it waits for no man and the lost time can never be regain. Today's duty that is put off till tomorrow usually gives you a double burden to bear. The best way is to do it at the proper time. Christ will come like a thief in the night. Repent now and don't post pone you salvation. Tomorrow might be too late. 2 Cor. 6:2, Deut. 23:21, Ecc. 5:4, 12:1.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of procrastination?
2. What are some causes of procrastination?
3. Mention some effects of procrastination.

4. What are the solutions to procrastination?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Gen. 19:16 – Family ties is a major cause of procrastination.

TUE: Acts 24:25 – Immediate decisions are necessary for things of God.

WED: Acts 17:32 – Death is an appointment and resurrection follows, so act now.

THUR: Lk. 9:61 – Every family bond that separates you from God must be cut today.

FRI: Ecc. 3:1 – Time is of essence to opportunities, it may never be regained.

SAT: 2 Sam. 20:5 – God has His set time and He cannot be late.

SUN: Pro. 10:4 – Don't allow procrastination to slow you down.

LESSON 49
VENGEANCE

MEMORY VERSE - *"See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men" 1 Thessalonians 5:15*

LESSON TEXT - Romans 12:14-21

INTRODUCTION

Vengeance is seeking to harm someone in return for a perceived offense or injury. God forbids us to avenge ourselves, Lev. 19: 18. How do you respond when someone wrongs you or tries to discredit you? Do you rehearse old offences and feel hurt again? It is our prayers that the Lord will teach us how to close the door on past hurts in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUTLINES

A. CAUSES OF VENGEANCE

B. SOLUTION TO HURTS

C. WHY YOU SHOULD NOT AVENGE

A. CAUSES OF VENGEANCE

One of the causes of vengeance is failure to forgive. People try to take vengeance on past sins not forgiven. The Lord teaches us to forgive. Matt. 18:21-22; 6:14-15. Jesus Christ commands us to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute us, Matt. 5:44. People go into vengeance when they try to avenge a perceived wrong, 2 Sam. 10:1-5. Not letting go of past is another cause of vengeance. 1 kings 2:5-9; Mk.6:24-25.

B. SOLUTION TO HURTS

God does not want His children to avenge themselves. You must therefore never reward evil for good, Prov. 17:13; 2 Sam. 14:29-33; Luke 6:31; Rom. 12:20-21. Learn to leave judgments to God, Ps. 94; Deut. 32:35; Heb. 10:30. God is a better judge, are limited but God is not. Acts. 12:1-23. Pray for the spirit of forgiveness. Be Christ like because despite all Jesus Christ suffered, He prayed for His persecutors, Luke 23:34; Phil 2:5-8

C. WHY YOU SHOULD NOT AVENGE

- It is God's command. 1 Pet. 3:19; 1 Thess. 5:15; Prov. 20:22
- God's vengeance could be much more than yours. 2 Sam. 12:7-14; Rom. 12:17-21; Prov. 25:21-22
- Your refusal to avenge makes you better than others. Acts 7:59-60
- Your good can change others. Rom. 12:21

CONCLUSION

As true children of God we should be Christ like. He never sought revenge, even when He was being nailed to the cross. He offered forgiveness. Leave vengeance to God, and allow Him to be the only judge.

QUESTIONS

1. What is vengeance?
2. What are the causes of vengeance?
3. What are solutions to hurts

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ex. 22:24 - God's vengeance can be terrible, leave vengeance to Him.

TUE: Lev. 20:5 - Don't toy with sin because of God's vengeance on sinners.

WED: Num. 14:12 - God will avenge you of your enemies.

THUR: 1 Sam. 2:25 - The wrath of God will come on disobedience.

FRI: 2 Kg. 9:7 - God does not allow anyone to cast insults on His prophet.

SAT: Pro. 20:22 - It is God's wisdom to leave vengeance to Him.

SUN: 1 Cor. 6: 7 - Settling issues in court amongst brethren is not of God.

LESSON 50
THE PORTRAIT OF EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

MEMORY VERSE: *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Corinthians11:1.*

LESSON TEXT - Jeremiah 23:1-4

INTRODUCTION

There is no finer example for effective Christian leadership than our Lord Jesus Christ. He declared, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10:11. It is within this verse that we see the perfect description of a Christian leader. He is one who acts as a shepherd to those "sheep" in his care.

OUTLINES

A. QUALITIES OF AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEADER

B. CATEGORIES OF LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS

A. QUALITIES OF AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEADER

1. An effective leader follows the footprints of the Master, Jesus Christ, 1 Pet. 2:21. The shepherd / Christian leader is one who has several roles in regard to his sheep. He leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects and protects. The shepherd of the Lord's flock leads by modeling godliness and righteousness in his own life and encouraging others to follow his example. Of course, our ultimate example and the One we should follow is Christ Himself. The Apostle Paul understood this, 1 Cor.11:1.

2. The Christian leader is also a feeder who nourishes the sheep, and the ultimate "sheep food" is the Word of God. The Christian leader nourishes his flock with the only food which will produce strong,

vibrant Christians – the word of God. . The Bible, not psychology or the world's wisdom, is the only diet that can produce healthy Christians – Deut.8:3.

3. The Christian leader also comforts the sheep, binding up their wounds and applying the balm of compassion and love. The Lord Himself promised to bind up the injured and strengthen the weak – Eze.34:16. As Christians in the world today, we suffer many injuries to our spirits, and we need compassionate leaders who will bear our burdens with us, sympathize with our circumstances, exhibit patience toward us, encourage us in the Word, and bring our concerns before the Father's throne.

4. The Christian leader corrects and disciplines those in his care when they go astray. This is to be done with a spirit of gentleness – Gal.6:2. Those in leadership must correct according to scriptural principles. The Lord disciplines those He loves – Pro. 3:12 - and the Christian leader must follow His example.

5. The Christian leader should be a protector. The devil tries to lure Christians away with false doctrines, dismissing the Bible as quaint and old fashioned, insufficient, unclear, or unknowable. These lies are spread by those against whom Jesus warned us – Matt.7:15. Our leaders must protect us from the false teachings of those who would lead us astray from the truth of the Scripture and the fact that Christ alone is the way of salvation – John 14:6.

B. CATEGORIES OF LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS

Today many people are heading towards where they do not know.

i. The blind leading the blind.

A blind leader cannot see the pits of dangers on the way in order to warn himself and those he is leading e.g. a church whose Pastor cannot see spiritually will find it difficult to stay out of trouble. Both will fall into the ditch. Examples are, someone who is not born again leading another person who is not born again. Also, someone practicing false religion, Mt. 15:14.

ii. The blind leading the seeing.

It is a shame for a leader to be blind while the members are seeing e.g. a Pastor that lacks spiritual gifts. This will erode his power as a leader and make him a figure head, 1 Sam. 3:4-17; Num. 22:16-18; 23:19-26. It also results into confusion and disagreements which may eventually lead to strife.

iii. The seeing leading the blind

This is ideal. It is good for a leader to see things before they happen and warn his people accordingly. This type of a church will move fast - 2 Kgs.5:20-26, 2 Kgs.6:15-17.

iv. The seeing leading the seeing

This is the type of leadership the church is expected to have. This is a situation whereby the Pastor and the congregation will be on their toes. The congregation will be a check on the activities of the leader and vice versa – 2 Kg. 2:1-11.

CONCLUSION

The one who leads you will determine where you end. Pray for visionary and spiritually discerning leaders in the body of Christ. Have initiative as a leader and be spiritually filled.

QUESTIONS

1. Differentiate between an effective leader and an ordinary leader.
2. What are the qualities of an effective leader?
3. What type of leadership existed between Elijah and Elisha?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Deut. 31:6 – Fear not. Just follow the leading of God.

TUE: Jos. 1:9 – The Lord is with you wherever you go.

WED: Neh. 9:19 – God will always show you the way.

THUR: Ps. 5:8 – The Lord will lead you and make your way straight.

FRI: Ps. 16:11 – There are pleasures to enjoy as the Lord leads you.

SAT: Pro. 16:9 – The Lord directs the steps of the righteous.

SUN: Mt 15:14 – Make sure you are not led by false prophets

LESSON 51
THE INNER JUDGE

MEMORY VERSE: *When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, Romans 1:21*

LESSON TEXT - Romans 1:18-32

INTRODUCTION

There is an inner judge that examines all that man does and says. This is called conscience. It is an inner witness to God and a witness to righteousness, Rom. 2: 11-15. It cries out before any wrong doing. It keeps "talking" during and even after an act. The word conscience does not appear in the Old Testament; instead the word "heart" is substituted, I Sam. 24: 5; Job 27: 6. Who has a conscience? Is it reserved for educated and civilized people only? No, all have consciences, 2 Cor. 4: 2, but there are various types of consciences: evil ones, pure ones, weak ones, good ones and many others. All these will be examined in this lesson. It is our prayer that the Lord will teach us in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

OUTLINES

A. EVIL CONSCIENCE

B. CONVICTED CONSCIENCE

C. PURGED CONSCIENCE

D. WEAK CONSCIENCE

E. PURE CONSCIENCE

F. GOOD CONSCIENCE

G. DEFILED CONSCIENCE

H. CONSCIENCE DEVOID OF OFFENCE.

A. EVIL CONSCIENCE

Not all consciences are good. In fact, since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, many consciences had become darkened and defiled. The conscience of man suffered terribly in the fall, Eph. 4:18, Titus 1:15, Hebrews 10: 22. It is an evil conscience that directs a man to bow down and worship an idol. It is an evil conscience that rationalizes when a son who does not want to kill becomes a murderer. It is an evil conscience that accuses a man of being anti-social when he refuses to entertain with alcoholic drinks or to partake in an immoral gathering, Rom. 1:16-32, our passage today, tells the terrible story of what happens when conscience becomes defiled, depraved or evil.

B. CONVICTED CONSCIENCE

When a man hears the true Gospel of Christ, the Holy Spirit quickens the Word of God in his heart and his conscience becomes convicted. As he hears about sin and judgment for sin, his conscience begins to judge him, bearing witness to the truth in the Word of God. Then the hearer does one of two things:either he yields to the working of the Holy Spirit or he excuses himself, Rom. 2:15. A common excuse is to say that he is not the only sinner in the world, that all men are sinners; that if God is going to judge, He will judge everybody; that the preacher himself is a sinner anyway, so why bother? But those who yield to the promptings of the Holy Spirit start feeling sorrow for their sin and soon they are on the way to repentance, John 8:1-11 is a good example of conscience in action.

C. PURGED CONSCIENCE

When a man yields to the working of the Holy Spirit in his heart, his awakened conscience brings pressure on him to conform to God's stand on sin and righteousness. He begins to realize the evil of a depraved conscience and conviction leads to conversion or salvation. His conscience becomes purged, Heb. 9:14, and he begins to find joy in serving the living God.

D. WEAK CONSCIENCE

So we see that conversion is the re-creation of the conscience, which has been long silenced. But the young convert may find that his conscience is still too weak to be relied upon, 1 Cor. 8:7, 12, 13. His conscience may not be

strong enough to clearly distinguish between good and bad. His conscience may still be weak enough to accept anything that is "not too bad" ignoring the fact that anything that is not too bad is definitely not good. Prayer, Bible study and constant obedience can help him to overcome this weakness.

E. PURE CONSCIENCE

At conversion not only is the soul saved but the conscience is converted too. This change of conscience is often a gradual process as the individual is instructed more perfectly in the will of God. The sinner feels that the conscience is a burden, but to the saved, conscience is a help, a friend to know and love, a messenger from God which constantly reminds him of God's standard which is perfection, 1 Tim. 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3.

F. GOOD CONSCIENCE

The desire of God for every born-again believer is to have good conscience, Acts 2:13; 1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Pet. 3:16, 21. Pray that the Lord will give you a good conscience, a tender conscience. Do no try to silence a good conscience; rather agree with it. If you have a good conscience it will be difficult for you to forsake the narrow road.

G. CONSCIENCE DEVOID OF OFFENCE

One of the highest goals in a Christian life is to have a conscience devoid of offence towards God and towards men, Acts 24:16. A sensitive conscience produces careful Christians who are conscientious, dependable and usable in the Kingdom of God.

H. DEFILED CONSCIENCE

The conscience becomes defiled when it is corrupted. The kind of things people see, hear, touch, taste and smell affect him. Constant association with things that are evil could produce a defiled conscience. Somebody can get use to the smell of cigarette and may no more see it as bad. Constant watching of some movies could defile the conscience. A good example is the constant watching of pornographic films. Their conscience could be defiled and they no more see it as bad.

What type of conscience is yours? Can you pray the prayer of Heb. 10:22 now?

QUESTIONS

1. What is conscience?
2. How do we know a weak conscience?
3. How do we know a good, pure and sensitive conscience?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: 1 Tim. 4:2 - Remember that no liar will inherit the kingdom of God. Do you speak lies in hypocrisy?

TUE: 2 Tim. 1:3 - If Apostle Paul served God with a pure conscience you can.

WED: 1 Cor. 8:10 - Beware of leading people with weak conscience to sin.

THUR: Heb. 9:14 - You require clean conscience to serve the Lord.

FRI: 1 Pet. 3:10 - Have good conscience irrespective of false accusations.

SAT: Acts 23:1 - Do not allow the presence of man, no matter how highly place affect you conscience towards God.

SUN: 2 Cor. 1:12 - Let good conscience be your testimony.

LESSON 52
THE FOURTH QUARTER INTERACTIVE SESSION

WELCOME TO THE FOURTH INTERACTIVE SESSION

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY
- TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE
- TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- ETC

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

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